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The PRODUCER

Vol. X

DENVER, COLORADO

No. 1



JUNE 1928

Official Organ of the
AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK
ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

STILL FORGING AHEAD

DENVER'S growing popularity as the most favorable cattle-trading center of the West continued to make itself manifest during the month of May just past. Total receipts of cattle and calves at Denver for May, 1928, were 67,624 head—an increase of 13,410 head, or nearly 25 per cent, as compared with May, 1927. This constitutes the largest receipts for the month of May since the year 1922.

Considering the known shortage existing in the number of cattle on the ranges, in the feed-lots, and on the farms of this country, this substantial increase at Denver proves conclusively that producers and shippers of the West realize they are securing the best returns, with the least trouble to themselves, by placing their live stock on this market. Situated between the range and the feed-lots, with transportation lines spreading out in every direction, Denver is the logical point where the producer and buyer meet and consummate the best trade for both.

If **you** are one of those who are not yet convinced, let your next shipment come to **DENVER**, where the results will speak for themselves.





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information on Blackleg and its
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RAPID CITY SANTA MARIA

CALGARY



Concerning the value of your hogs

WHY is it that the farmer with a few hogs to market sometimes gets a higher price and sometimes a lower? And, why is it that, with a large number of hogs to sell, one time he will get a low price and another time a good fat price?

Two things determine hog value—the supply of hogs and the demand for pork.

Pork prices fluctuate noticeably in the course of a year. Consumer demand is not constant—the weather, the availability of other foods, and the national state of prosperity, all influence demand.

The supply, too, fluctuates to a marked degree, as every follower of the market knows.

It is not surprising, therefore, that with a demand that fluctuates and with a supply that fluctuates, the value of hogs is constantly changing.

It is immaterial where the hogs are marketed—their value is determined by the pork market all over the country and not by the supply of hogs at any particular place.

Inasmuch as packers pay cash for hogs, they have to estimate their value on the basis of current pork prices. Thus it is that the consumers of pork determine the value of live hogs.

F. E. White
President

ARMOUR AND COMPANY
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THE PRODUCER

THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK MONTHLY

Volume X

DENVER, COLORADO, JUNE, 1928

Number 1

Reclamation of Waste Range Land

BY HERBERT C. HANSON

Colorado Agricultural College

THERE IS MUCH RANGE LAND in the West that at present is lying waste or producing very little palatable forage. A large part of this waste range cannot be improved much because of unfavorable soil or climatic conditions. But ranges that have been injured or depleted due to man's lack of foresight, greediness, poor judgment, or other mistakes can often be greatly improved. Lands on which forage production can frequently be increased are abandoned plowed areas, overgrazed ranges, brush areas, and alkali-seepage areas. As range land increases in value, the reclamation of waste areas becomes more and more important.

Abandoned Plowed Areas

There are numerous areas in the western states that were plowed by homesteaders years ago and afterwards abandoned. Many of these areas still support only a growth of weeds, like mountain sage, snakeweed, and weedy grasses such as three-awned grass and Texas crabgrass. Often these places are the most favorable for grass growth on the range, but at present are practically worthless. The plants growing on them are of very little or no value for grazing. Adjacent areas may be closely grazed, while the old broken areas are hardly touched (Fig. 1). Natural revegetation on this land is very slow in most places. How to improve the forage on these abandoned acres is an important problem with many stockmen.

Experiments have demonstrated that in the range country of Colorado just below the yellow pines, and

in the openings between the yellow pines, with an annual rainfall of fifteen to twenty inches, where blue grama grass, fescues, and similar grasses are native, several tame grasses will grow successfully. The most successful of these tame grasses are smooth



FIG. 1.—On the right is shown natural sod, consisting of blue grama grass and western wheatgrass; on the left is an old, abandoned plowed area, covered chiefly with mountain sage. It takes many years for the native grasses to work into such plowed ground. They can be reclaimed by proper reseeding. (Near Virginia Dale, Colorado.)

brome grass, slender wheatgrass (*Agropyron tenerum*), orchard grass, and crested wheatgrass. Seed of the latter grass is not on the market yet, but work is under way to place it on the market shortly. If the seeding is to be successful, the land must be properly prepared. The land should be plowed or disked, and the seed-bed made as fine and firm as possible. The seed may be drilled in, or broadcast and then covered.

by means of a harrow. This should be done as early in the spring as possible. These tame grasses will outyield the native grasses, provided they are given proper care. They should not, however, be grazed



FIG. 2—A good two-year-old dry-land pasture of smooth brome grass, near Virginia Dale, Colorado. Many abandoned plowed areas can be reclaimed, as this one has been, by seeding to suitable grasses.

the first season (Fig. 2). Usually it will pay to fence the planted areas, so that rotation grazing may be used. This system, which provides for alternate periods of growth and cropping, gives greater yields of forage than continuous grazing.

In swales and meadows, where moisture conditions are more favorable, other plants, such as timothy, Kentucky bluegrass, Canada bluegrass, white clover, and alsike clover, will grow on properly prepared soil. As a rule, however, it is a waste of seed to sow in unprepared soil. The plants already growing there are making such complete use of the soil that additional seedlings stand no chance.

Where the precipitation is less than fifteen inches per year it is unlikely that tame grasses will form a stand. On sandy areas that are subject to blowing the most suitable grasses of which seed may be obtained appear to be smooth brome grass, orchard grass, slender wheatgrass, and in the southern portion perennial rye and Bermuda grass. Johnson grass has proved successful on sandy soil, but it is often objectionable because, if it spreads to cultivated fields, it may be very difficult to eradicate. More experimental work is needed on sandy ranges.

Overgrazed Ranges

On ranges where the vegetation has become thin, and many of the most palatable plants have been replaced by worthless weeds, it is necessary to change

the grazing methods in order to increase the production of forage. Perhaps the range has been grazed too early in the spring for a number of years. Provision should then be made for resting a portion of it each spring, so that the most valuable plants may get started and begin to spread. The vegetation may be so sparse that the chief improvement needed is to increase the density of the stand. One of the best methods for attaining this is the rotation system of grazing. This method not only gives the plants opportunity to grow and produce seed, but also provides for planting the seed by the trampling of stock. The extra cost for fencing and handling is more than offset by the increase in forage. If neither deferred nor rotation grazing can be practiced, the number of stock may have to be reduced before the range can improve. Badly eroded areas may need total protection in order to prevent further erosion.

Brush Areas

Brush, unpalatable or much less palatable than grasses to stock, occupies many square miles of western range lands. Some of these shrubs are rabbit-brush, sagebrush, scrub oak, buckbrush, and mountain mahogany.

Nearly one-fourth of the State of Colorado is covered with the sagebrush type of vegetation. Under and between the bushes is a large variety of forage

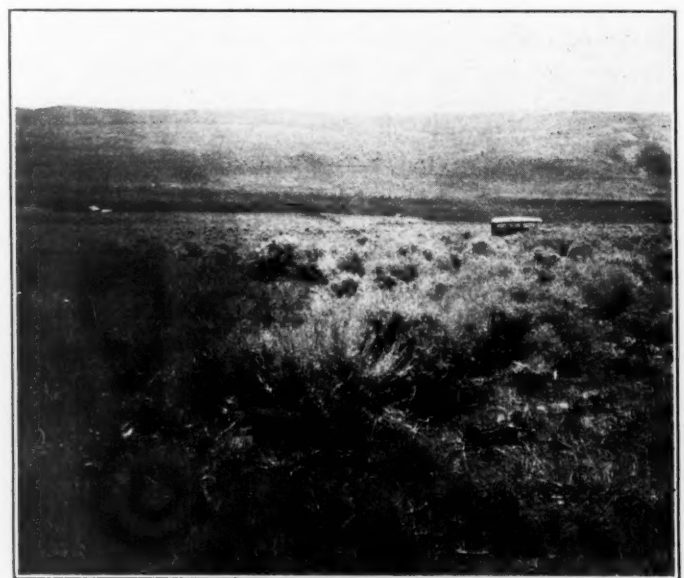


FIG. 3—Sagebrush reduces the stand of native grasses. On the right is shown the poor stand of grass under sagebrush; at the left is a good stand of grass, following the clearing of sagebrush by burning. (Laramie River valley, Colorado.)

plants, such as the June grass, wheatgrasses, fescues, sedges, arid bluegrasses, and many weeds. The sagebrush in many places hinders the growth of grass. This is the case especially on deep, fertile soil, where the sagebrush may grow three to five feet tall (Fig.

3). Usually sagebrush is grazed only to a slight extent, but the grasses that have been suppressed are highly palatable and nutritious. The first step, then, in increasing the amount of forage is to give the grasses a chance by removing the sagebrush.

Experiments in northern Colorado have shown that, where there is no danger of forest fires, burning is an easy method to clear land of tall sagebrush (Fig. 4). The best time for burning appears to be in the fall, after growth has ceased for the season and the woody stems are rather dry. With a suitable wind, much land can be cleared in a short time. The improvement in the stand of grasses appears the first year following burning. This increase in stand is due to the natural spreading by rootstocks of the grasses already on the ground, and their greater vigor and larger growth when the sagebrush competition has been eliminated. Sagebrush seedlings are much less numerous on the grassed areas than on those where the sagebrush has not been burned.

In California it has been noted that the brush-cover may increase considerably after one burn. If, however, a single burning is followed with grazing by goats, the brush is eradicated more successfully.

Alkali-Seepage Land

Methods for reclaiming alkali-seepage land are ridding the land of alkali by drainage or other methods, and seeding to alkali-resistant plants where the alkali cannot be eliminated. If the soil is extremely alkaline, or the water stands on the surface part of the year, it may be best to pasture these areas as



FIG. 4—Clearing land of sagebrush by burning. A good stand of native grasses follows such treatment. (Laramie River valley, Colorado.)

they are. Australian saltbush and an annual new to this country, *Bassia hyssopifolia*, have proved valuable, however, when planted in very alkaline soil in the Southwest.

Common native grasses on this kind of soil are

saltgrass, alkali sacaton, and alkali meadowgrass. Saltgrass often forms pure stands, but the best pastures are composed of all three. All are perennial, the first propagating by rhizomes and forming a turf,

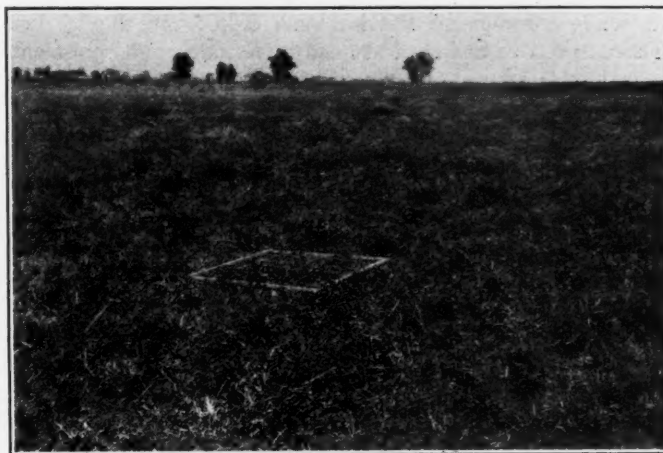


FIG. 5—Tame-grass pasture, five months after planting, on alkali-seepage land, near Greeley, Colorado. Slender wheatgrass and yellow sweet clover were the most successful plants in this pasture.

the other two being bunchgrasses. These three grasses are palatable to cattle and horses, alkali meadowgrass being the most palatable. Saltgrass and alkali sacaton should be fairly closely grazed, so as not to allow them to become dry, when they are unpalatable. If they are eaten closely, new growth continues to form and is readily eaten by stock.

If the land supports some wheatgrass—sometimes called bluestem—or if beets and barley can grow on it, then certain tame forage plants will grow. Experiments have shown that the most suitable for these conditions in northern Colorado are yellow sweet clover, slender wheatgrass, meadow fescue, redtop, and smooth brome grass. These plants are also valuable on the fields that have been abandoned due to excess alkali or a shallow water-table (Fig. 5).

PACKER-DIVISION-OF-TERRITORY CASE DISMISSED

ON DECEMBER 31, 1927, a complaint was issued by the Secretary of Agriculture, under Title II of the Packers and Stock-Yards Act, against two of the minor packing concerns—George A. Hormel, of Austin, Minnesota, and the Rath Packing Company, of Waterloo, Iowa—charged with having entered into an agreement to apportion territory between them for the purchase and sale of swine. Testimony in the case was taken on February 15-17, 1928, and oral argument was made on April 9 and 10.

Decision was rendered on April 28. The secretary finds that "the evidence is clear that no arrangement or agreement in regard to the apportionment of territory was carried out, since each respondent solicited, received, and accepted at its plant shipments of hogs from the territory tributary to the packing plant of the other. Upon consideration of the entire record, I therefore find that there was no agreement between respondents to apportion territory for carrying on the business of purchasing swine in commerce." The case is dismissed.

CASTING THE MARKET HOROSCOPE

BY JAMES E. POOLE

SUMMER LIVE-STOCK MARKET PROSPECTS are by no means unpromising. Both beef and pork production will be lighter than during the corresponding period of 1927, and, while a somewhat heavier lamb crop is on the market horizon, it will be absorbed at good prices, although recessions are inevitable when the main northwestern crop begins moving freely. Stock cattle of all kinds will sell high, especially if the corn crop comes along encouragingly, and, while feeding-lamb trade is temporarily in a state of coma, no bargain sale is likely, even though cost to feeders may be somewhat lower than last year. It is probable that the cheap feeding lambs of the season will be bought early, and, should a bumper corn crop be garnered, the late market will be high.

Demand for the cheaper grades of beef is so urgent that grass cattle will command good prices right along, certainty of strong feeder competition existing.

Hides and all kinds of by-product are realizing prices that relieve beef of the load it was carrying last year. Hides are up 100 per cent from the low spot, and apparently on a permanent basis.

The crop of heavy cattle will, within the next thirty days, have been reduced to a volume where it will no longer be a menace. Heavy cattle should advance in July and August, pulling middle grades and yearlings with them. A premium of \$1 per cwt. or more on bullocks weighing 1,300 pounds and up would exert a beneficial influence on the whole market.

Replacement in feed-lots has been light for several months past. Advancing feed cost, a badly acting heavy steer market, and the fact that cattle could be sold at a profit, have pulled cattle out, with the impetus of high feed cost impelling the movement.

Thousands of light and medium-weight cattle have gone to the butcher prematurely. The Chicago market has been full of steers needing another sixty days' feed, and few of these have returned to the country, as they enabled killers to cheapen cost.

Unless all the information available is to be discredited, beef-gathering west of the Missouri River will be the smallest in many years. This was heralded by the spring run of south Texas grassers.

Physical conditions in the Southwest have been materially improved by generous May rains, insuring grass and eliminating an expensive feed bill.

The Northwest is decidedly short of beef cattle, outside certain reservation pastures, which will load the usual number.

There will be little grass beef to go to market east of Chicago. Shortage in that quarter is indicated by current demand for light steers.

In the event of a bumper corn crop—by no means improbable—feeders will compete with killers over grass cattle adapted to a quick turn in the feed-lot.

The crop of yearlings—calves that went into feeders' hands last fall—will go to the butcher early, owing to attractive prices and cost of finishing. This process of liquidation is already in evidence and should put a stiff premium on finished yearlings late in the season.

Dairy herds east of the Missouri River having been tested to the limit and culled for "boarders," continued shortage of cheap beef is certain. Liquidation of western beef-bred cows having run its course, killers will get little relief from that quarter. Despite heavy importation of South American canned meats, canning cows will sell high right along, in response to urgent demand for fresh-processed meats.

Speculators will be unable to dislodge many cattle from western growers' hands. Growers are alive to the value of their property, whereas the speculator had them at a disadvantage last year.

Industrial conditions, while showing some relaxation, are not unhealthy, unemployment has been magnified for political purposes, and wages are high, insuring purchasing power.

High corn, coupled with scarcity, never has delivered an abundance of fed beef during the latter half of the year, and will not on this occasion; in fact, it exerts the reverse influence.

Summer pork and lard production will be considerably less than last year. There will be fewer lard-laden packing sows, yields will be lighter, and the season's run will be less on a numerical basis. This should whittle down the generous accumulation in packers' cellars rapidly when the June run is on, assuring a gradually advancing market until September—possibly October. High cost of beef will make a good summer market for both fresh pork and cured product. A narrow spread between light and heavy hogs in May is convincing in this respect.

A somewhat larger lamb crop, both east and west of the Missouri River, does not mean low prices. The high level attained during May on a short supply cannot be maintained, but scarcity of beef is undoubtedly stimulating lamb consumption, and when prices have been readjusted to a new-crop basis, the market will acquire a healthy stride.

Feeder-lamb trade has not yet been established. Contracting was abruptly suspended when feeders west of the Missouri River registered their recent protest against speculative activity. Present indications are that cost to feeders will be somewhat lower than last year, as feed conditions in Colorado will restrict winter operations, and there will be more lambs to go around.

Corn Belt feeders are "laying low," after two years of unsatisfactory results; but they will buy lambs later in the season, especially if feed abundance develops. High stock cattle should induce Corn Belters to lay in more lambs than would be the case otherwise.

Assertion that cattle are "high enough" may sound heretical; and yet that opinion is openly expressed. Certainly cattle prices are out of line—a condition that invariably results in adjustment sooner or later. Prime heavy bullocks have been actually penalized for three months past, owing to an effort on the part of consumers to get away from cost. Hogs have been, and are, out of line with cattle and lambs, which will also be rectified eventually.

The position of cattle- and sheep-growers has been fortified by advances in hides, wool, and all kinds of by-product. Hogs do not benefit in this respect, but have the advantage of an export outlet, especially for lard, which is fairly healthy.

After the presidential nominations have been made, the country will enjoy a period of respite from political disturbance, and trade and commerce will move along in their accustomed groove, creating at least a prospect of a placid summer season.

WORLD'S LIVE-STOCK POPULATION

HEREWITH WE PRESENT our annual live-stock statistics. One hundred and seven countries have been tabulated. Many of the data are yet regrettably vague. Full and accurate figures we shall not have until the completion of the world's agricultural census in 1930, now in course of preparation by the International Institute of Agriculture at

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THE WORLD'S LIVE STOCK

COUNTRIES	YEAR	CATTLE	SHEEP	SWINE	COUNTRIES	YEAR	CATTLE	SHEEP	SWINE
EUROPE—					AMERICA—				
Austria.....	1923	2,163,000	597,000	1,473,000	Argentina.....	1923	37,065,000	30,672,000	1,437,000
Belgium.....	1927	1,739,000	126,000	1,124,000	Bahamas.....	1925	—	21,000	—
Bulgaria.....	1924	1,292,000	7,450,000	574,000	Bolivia.....	1925	571,000	4,220,000	114,000
Czechoslovakia.....	1925	4,691,000	861,000	2,539,000	Brazil.....	1927	57,521,000	7,933,000	18,400,000
Denmark.....	1927	2,912,000	233,000	3,729,000	Canada.....	1927	9,172,000	3,263,000	4,695,000
Estonia.....	1927	634,000	667,000	354,000	Chile.....	1925	1,918,000	4,094,000	247,000
Finland.....	1926	1,860,000	1,413,000	391,000	Colombia.....	1924	6,391,000	771,000	1,338,000
France.....	1926	14,482,000	10,775,000	5,777,000	Costa Rica.....	1925	433,000	1,000	71,000
Germany.....	1927	17,982,000	3,813,000	22,880,000	Cuba.....	1924	4,630,000	—	—
Great Britain.....	1927	7,479,000	24,494,000	2,873,000	Curacao.....	1923	3,000	31,000	5,000
Greece.....	1923	*684,000	5,789,000	404,000	Dominican Republic.....	1924	701,000	162,000	1,020,000
Hungary.....	1927	1,805,000	1,611,000	2,387,000	Ecuador.....	1925	1,500,000	700,000	—
Iceland.....	1925	25,000	558,000	—	Falkland Islands.....	1926	8,000	606,000	—
Ireland, North and South.....	1927	4,746,000	3,721,000	1,414,000	Guatemala.....	1926	564,000	98,000	92,000
Italy.....	1926	*7,400,000	12,350,000	2,850,000	Guiana, British.....	1925	135,000	29,000	12,000
Latvia.....	1927	967,000	1,128,000	535,000	Guiana, Dutch.....	1924	16,000	—	6,000
Lithuania.....	1926	1,396,000	1,573,000	1,441,000	Honduras.....	1919	466,000	—	23,000
Luxemburg.....	1925	101,000	11,000	121,000	Jamaica.....	1925	133,000	8,000	32,000
Netherlands.....	1921	2,063,000	668,000	1,519,000	Mexico.....	1926	5,585,000	2,698,000	2,903,000
Norway.....	1927	1,209,000	1,608,000	300,000	Newfoundland.....	1911	40,000	100,000	28,000
Poland.....	1927	8,571,000	1,917,000	6,397,000	Nicaragua.....	1921	1,200,000	—	—
Portugal.....	1925	768,000	3,684,000	1,117,000	Panama.....	1919	217,000	—	30,000
Rumania.....	1927	4,552,000	12,941,000	3,076,000	Paraguay.....	1926	2,973,000	600,000	60,000
Russia, European.....	1927	43,835,000	73,891,000	15,829,000	Peru.....	1923	1,293,000	11,056,000	429,000
Spain.....	1926	3,688,000	20,529,000	5,032,000	Porto Rico.....	1925	144,000	—	—
Sweden.....	1925	2,100,000	1,200,000	1,100,000	Salvador.....	1917	230,000	40,000	220,000
Switzerland.....	1926	1,537,000	169,000	635,000	United States.....	1923	57,808,000	44,995,000	61,607,000
Yugoslavia.....	1926	3,768,000	7,933,000	2,802,000	Uruguay.....	1924	8,432,000	14,443,000	251,000
					Venezuela.....	1922	2,778,000	113,000	512,000
Total Europe.....		144,499,000	201,709,000	88,673,000	Total America.....		201,927,000	126,654,000	93,532,000
AFRICA—					ASIA—				
Algeria.....	1927	849,000	5,083,000	96,000	Ceylon.....	1924	*1,383,000	62,000	59,000
Basutoland.....	1925	631,000	2,051,000	—	China.....	1916	15,973,000	22,232,000	44,711,000
Bechuanaland.....	1925	495,000	132,000	—	Cyprus.....	1924	291,000	244,000	39,000
Congo, Belgian.....	1925	480,000	310,000	—	East Indies, Dutch.....	1925	4,343,000	1,030,000	783,000
Egypt.....	1926	722,000	1,144,000	17,000	Formosa.....	1926	*383,000	—	1,543,000
Equatorial Africa, French.....	1924	1,001,000	1,126,000	—	India, British.....	1925	119,492,000	23,201,000	22,895,000
Eritrea, Italian.....	1922	553,000	†1,701,000	—	India, Native States.....	1925	15,109,000	13,591,000	—
Gold Coast.....	1925	85,000	†320,000	—	Indo-China, French.....	1926	3,099,000	26,000	742,000
Kamerun, British.....	1924	14,000	28,000	8,000	Iraq.....	1926	—	5,955,000	—
Kamerun, French.....	1926	332,000	†410,000	8,000	Japan.....	1925	1,456,000	17,000	743,000
Kenya Colony.....	1926	3,413,000	2,756,000	9,000	Korea.....	1924	1,605,000	2,000	1,130,000
Libia.....	1925	34,000	415,000	—	Palestine.....	1925	92,000	291,000	—
Madagascar.....	1926	7,140,000	116,000	406,000	Persia.....	1924	1,000,000	†4,000,000	—
Morocco, French.....	1926	1,933,000	9,248,000	60,000	Philippine Islands.....	1926	874,000	345,000	7,887,000
Nigeria, British.....	1925	2,864,000	1,809,000	—	Russia, Asiatic.....	1927	16,018,000	†21,114,000	3,780,000
Nyassaland.....	1923	118,000	95,000	30,000	Siam.....	1925	3,872,000	—	864,000
Rhodesia, Northern and Southern.....	1925	2,295,000	332,000	27,000	Straits Settlements.....	1925	—	—	267,000
Somaliland, Italian.....	1921	1,246,000	1,566,000	—	Syria and Lebanon.....	1925	250,000	1,182,000	—
South Africa, Union of.....	1925	9,738,000	39,551,000	801,000	Turkey, Asiatic and European.....	1926	4,947,000	11,702,000	—
Southwest Africa, British.....	1925	572,000	1,069,000	—	Total Asia.....		190,187,000	104,994,000	85,443,000
Sudan, Anglo-Egyptian.....	1925	935,000	1,639,000	56,000	OCEANIA—				
Sudan, French.....	1923	1,215,000	2,324,000	—	Australia.....	1927	12,007,000	96,453,000	980,000
Swaziland.....	1924	270,000	77,000	9,000	Fiji Islands.....	1924	57,000	1,000	2,000
Tanganyika Territory.....	1925	4,472,000	†4,462,000	—	New Zealand.....	1927	3,258,000	25,649,000	520,000
Tunisia.....	1926	370,000	1,461,000	13,000	Total Oceania.....		15,322,000	122,103,000	1,502,000
Uganda.....	1925	1,342,000	866,000	—	GRAND TOTALS.....		597,216,000	639,127,000	270,690,000
West Africa, French.....	1922	2,142,000	3,576,000	—					
Zanzibar.....	1926	20,000	—	—					
Total Africa.....		45,281,000	83,667,000	1,540,000					

*Includes buffaloes.

†Includes goats.

SUMMARY

GRAND DIVISIONS	CATTLE			SHEEP			SWINE		
	Last Census	Previous Census	Pre-War	Last Census	Previous Census	Pre-War	Last Census	Previous Census	Pre-War
United States.....	57,808,000	59,633,000	58,471,000	44,995,000	42,359,000	50,110,000	61,607,000	55,174,000	60,221,000
America (including United States).....	201,927,000	179,930,000	160,725,000	126,654,000	123,090,000	156,104,000	93,532,000	85,005,000	89,965,000
Europe.....	144,499,000	135,539,000	137,966,000	201,709,000	182,738,000	163,795,000	88,673,000	80,686,000	85,075,000
Asia.....	190,187,000	182,329,000	190,027,000	104,994,000	90,872,000	118,283,000	85,443,000	82,625,000	108,755,000
Africa.....	45,281,000	47,228,000	37,964,000	83,667,000	82,399,000	78,755,000	1,540,000	1,542,000	1,999,000
Oceania.....	15,322,000	16,789,000	13,584,000	122,103,000	129,239,000	109,837,000	1,502,000	1,446,000	1,154,000
GRAND TOTALS.....	597,216,000	561,815,000	540,266,000	639,127,000	608,338,000	631,774,000	270,690,000	261,304,000	286,948,000

Rome, under the energetic direction of Leon M. Estabrook, of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Confining ourselves to those countries of North and South America, Europe, and Australasia for which up-to-date, or at least comparatively late, information is at hand, we find in cattle generally a moderate increase in numbers over the previous censuses or estimates. In the case of Europe, this increase amounts to 6.6 per cent. For Argentina we still must content ourselves with the relatively antiquated data of 1923, no more recent enumeration or official estimate having been given out. Of the trend in that country we know nothing definite, but it is commonly believed that there has been some diminution in its cattle herds. On the other hand, a recently published estimate of the supplies of Brazil—the first since 1922—at one fell swoop adds no less than 26,816,000 head to the total for that country, as well as to that of the whole American continent, and illustrates how the correction of one figure may throw the entire statistical system out of plumb.

As opposed to this increase in Europe and in the Western Hemisphere as a whole, we note a reduction of 3.1 per cent in the United States, the causes of which are familiar to our readers, and of 8.1 per cent in Australia and New Zealand—the result of an unsatisfactory overseas market, coupled with a severe and long-continued drought in Queensland.

For the countries of the world whose cattle holdings are of moment in international commerce (all of Europe, the United States, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, the Union of South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand) there has since last year—which means since the previously published tabulation—been an increase of 10.5 per cent.

Compared with the pre-war period, cattle in Europe at present number 4.7 per cent more, on the whole American continent 25.7 per cent more, in Australasia 12.8 per cent more, but in the United States 1.2 per cent less.

In sheep, the growing demand for wool is stimulating production in commercially important countries, although as yet not to the degree that one might expect. This is undoubtedly in large measure due to the disastrous drought in northern Australia—the world's chief wool-exporter—which has been effective in decimating the Commonwealth's flocks by 7.6 per cent since 1927. Against this loss must be set gains of 6.1 per cent in the United States and of 10.4 per cent in Europe. For the principal wool- and mutton-exporting and importing countries (Europe, the United States, Canada, Argentina, Uruguay, Falkland Islands, Union of South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand) there has been an increase of 4.1 per cent.

Comparing numbers with pre-war conditions, a decline of 11.4 per cent in sheep is shown for the United States, and of 23.3 per cent for all of the Western Hemisphere, while Europe has an excess of 19.5 and Australasia one of 11.2 per cent.

In a broad view of the swine field, we note increases of 11.7 per cent for the United States, 5 per cent for Canada, 9.9 per cent for the whole of Europe, and 9.5 per cent for the three combined—the parts of the world playing a role in international pork trade. Certain European countries, however, have very materially swelled their hog holdings—35.6 per cent in the case of Ireland, 25.4 per cent for Poland, 22.9 per cent for Denmark, and 18 per cent for Germany—showing not only how far Europe has rehabilitated her herds, but also the extent to which she is straining to keep her hold on the lucrative British import market. War losses in swine now seem to have been recovered.

"We cannot get along without THE PRODUCER."—B. F. SHREVE, Decker, Mont.

NOTHING NEW IN ARGENTINE BEEF SITUATION

J. E. P.

ARGENTINE BEEF SCARES bob up frequently. Incredible as it may seem, feeders have actually ordered cars to load cattle prematurely in response to such rumors. Dean Curtiss, of the Iowa Agricultural College, was in Chicago about the middle of May, and, getting a personal inquiry on the subject of Argentine competition, expressed the opinion that, if such a thing happened, serious depreciation in domestic cattle values would result immediately. The interrogator, thus informed, went back to Iowa, told several people about it, and a few days later a story was going the rounds crediting Curtiss with prophecy that Argentine beef would shortly be admitted to this market, and that domestic cattle values would decline \$5 per cwt. within thirty days thereafter.

At intervals a canard of this kind breaks out in some section of the country, whereupon the wires to Chicago are kept hot with inquiry for several days. It makes business for the telegraph companies, but keeps cattledom in a stew. Possibly a public statement of policy on the matter by the Department of Agriculture would exert a reassuring influence. It goes to show the degree of timidity existing in cattle circles.

There is nothing new whatever in connection with the Argentine beef situation. Among the rumors going around is that a River Plate concern owned by a North American packing company brought a cargo of Argentine dressed beef into New York some time since, making an unsuccessful attempt to land it; the fact being that the head of the packing concern visited Washington, in company with an Argentine diplomat, to make such a request, but that Dr. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, took such an unequivocal position in opposition that the effort was abandoned. One rumor in this connection was that a cargo of Argentine beef was actually landed at New York and surreptitiously distributed. To the initiated the absurdity and impossibility of this is evident, but rumor does actually find lodgment with a gullible element.

Logically, no further efforts will be made to secure admission of South American beef during the life of the present federal administration, which has taken an unalterable position. A new administration, with a new Secretary of Agriculture, might change this policy. Not only the Argentine government, but certain eastern manufacturing and financial interests, are imbued with a determination to throw down the barrier, and it is highly probable that they will have recourse to propaganda in an effort to carry their point, as prosperity or depression for the Argentine cattle industry is at stake. Packers are saying nothing, and, if they are sawing wood meanwhile, the instrument is operating noiselessly. The interest of North American concerns owning slaughter-houses in Argentina in the proposition is evident. Policy necessitates neutrality in the admission campaign.

LAMB-FEEDERS MAKE WAR ON SPECULATORS

J. E. P.

AFEEDER STRIKE against buying lambs from speculators is still on, or was at the beginning of June. At the July meeting of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association at Casper, feeders will state their case. As presented by S. K. Warrick, of Scottsbluff, Nebraska, the strike—if that term is permissible—is directed at a class of speculators accustomed to contract unborn lambs by the hundred thousand, without reference to weight or character.

"The sole purpose of these speculators is to mulct feeders anywhere from \$1 to \$2 per cwt.," said Warrick. "Feeders in Colorado and western Nebraska, who handle about 2,500,000 lambs annually, have organized for mutual protection. They laid in lambs last fall at high prices, and averted what promised to be a catastrophe only by organizing an orderly-marketing campaign at Greeley, Colorado, on January 17. By this means we were able to distribute market receipts and avert gluts. A 50-cent break on a week's run of 260,000 lambs averaging 90 pounds means a loss of \$117,000 to feeders. We also raised \$6,000 to promote lamb consumption. Between the two efforts, the winter lamb market has been profitable, and speculators, designing to profit by it, began contracting new-crop lambs prematurely at anywhere from \$10.50 to \$12, and then endeavored to dispose of their holdings to feeders at \$12 to \$13. We did not consider this a square deal, and have refused to 'come across.'"

"Feeders in northern Colorado and western Nebraska should have a spread of \$3 per cwt. between initial and selling prices where the stock carries a 60- to 65-cent freight rate to Missouri River markets. Average cost of fat lambs at Omaha, from January 1, 1923, to April 1, 1928, was \$13.65 per cwt. This would make a reasonable price for fat lambs on the range, of standard weight and quality, \$10.50 to \$11 per cwt. Above a 65-pound weight, cost should be less, and if the freight exceeds 65 cents, the price should also be less. There is frequently a difference of 50 cents to \$1 per cwt. in actual feeding value on lambs of the same weight."

"Feeders do not object to order-buyers, or to traders who pass lambs on to feeders at reasonable profits. We recognize the value to the industry of honest buyers, with experience and judgment, and are willing to pay for the service they render. But we do object to the speculator who tries to buy all the lambs in a certain territory before they are born, with the object of raising prices to feeders \$1 to \$2 per cwt. We object to open contracts on range lambs that do not specify average or maximum weights on deliveries. We have no desire to depress prices paid to growers. Lamb-buyers should know from whom they purchase, the character of the range the stock comes from, the class of lambs produced, and average weight each season."

Corn Belt feeders are watching this dispute and awaiting crop developments. So far practically no orders from that area have been booked, and it is probable that early-bought feeding lambs will cost least during the coming season, especially if a big corn crop is harvested and the farming area has abundance of fall feed.

CATTLE SLAUGHTER BELOW LAST YEAR'S

J. E. P.

CURRENT CATTLE-SLAUGHTER STATISTICS admit of but one interpretation. The term "scarcity" exerts an undesirable psychological influence in consuming circles. Certainly no beef famine exists, or impends, as there is enough to go around at the prices; but the figures demonstrate that the plenitude period is over.

Beef production for 1928 will be substantially less than that of 1927. Slaughter under federal inspection has been running about 100,000 head under the corresponding period of 1927. April slaughter was 623,380, compared with 741,951 last year, and combined March and April slaughter figures 1,288,128 head, compared with 1,503,250 a year ago. During the ten-month period ending April, 1928, federal slaughter was 7,611,513 head, compared with 8,465,501 during the previous corresponding period—a decrease of 85,000 monthly. These are slaughter figures, not market receipts, and are the only real gauge of beef production, as market-receipt figures involve considerable double counting. May receipts at the ten principal western markets were close to 100,000 less than last year, but a larger proportion of the crop went to the shambles.

Light beef production during the latter half of the year will be logical for these reasons: Scarcity and advancing cost

of corn have dislodged many cattle prematurely; few heavy cattle have gone to feed-lots, owing to high cost of putting on gains, and the decline in top heavy cattle from \$18.75 at the high point in January to \$14 at the bottom of the May slump; high cost of mature steers suited to summer beef-making; marked scarcity of stock cows and heifers that have heretofore been used by pasturemen to salvage summer grass; a disposition to cash yearlings short of finish, to cut off the feed bill and in apprehension of lower prices; and certainty of short gathering of grass beef in the West, which was heralded by a short spring run of Texas grass cattle.

It is axiomatic that high corn, which means scarcity, sends cattle to market early, especially when prices are remunerative, which has been the case recently. Transversely, cheap corn and low current prices exert a restraining influence on the marketward movement, invariably resulting in an accumulation of fat cattle late in the summer and into early winter. This happened in 1926, but is impossible under existing replacement and feed conditions.

TURNING NEVADA FORESTS INTO GRAZING COMMONS

IN NEVADA, where 45 per cent of the summer range lies within the national forests, there is a strong sentiment in favor of turning the more important of these so-called forests back into grazing reserves. No merchantable timber exists on a large part of them. On the other hand, they are immensely valuable for grazing purposes, and were originally created at the instance of local stockmen as a means of obtaining proper range regulation. Without the use of these areas, many adjoining ranch properties would be almost worthless.

A bill (S. 3841) has been introduced in Congress by Senators Oddie and Pittman, proposing the redesignation of the Humboldt, Nevada, and Toiyabe National Forests as federal grazing reserves. These three forests are the most important units of the national-forest system of the state.

The change from national forests to grazing commons would naturally involve a change of jurisdiction from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior. A request for a report on the bill has been made of the Secretary of the Interior by the Senate Public Lands Committee. Mr. Work answers that he has no objection to its enactment, provided Mr. Jardine is willing.

TARIFF LEGISLATION URGED

A DEMAND that the present Congress pass an emergency tariff measure in aid of the American farmer was made in a resolution adopted by the Legislative Committee of the First National Conference of Co-operative Associations on Agricultural Tariffs, meeting in Washington, D. C., last month. The resolution declares—

"That the Tariff Act of 1922 needs drastic upward revision with respect to some commodities, in order to equalize more clearly the present disparity between the smaller share of the national income obtained by farmers and the larger share obtained by other groups within the United States.

"To that end we ask you to give, not only serious consideration to this form of agricultural relief, but also your assistance by passing this proposed legislation before another harvest season comes on. To do so will give a gleam of hope to farmers in many sections who now are suffering because of relatively low-priced farm products, caused in part by a huge volume of agricultural imports."

The resolution is signed by representatives of the Central Co-operative Live Stock Association, South St. Paul, Minn.; the National Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation, Susquehanna, Pa.; the Peanut Growers' Association, Norfolk, Va.; the Farmers' National Grain Dealers' Association, Omaha, Neb.; and the National Poultry Council, East Greenwich, R. I.

INTRASTATE RATES ON LIVE STOCK IN WYOMING

ON OCTOBER 28, 1926, a petition (known as Docket 540) was filed with the Public Service Commission of Wyoming by the American National Live Stock Association, the National Wool Growers' Association, the Wyoming Stock Growers' Association, and the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, against five important railroads operating in Wyoming, alleging that rates on live stock within the state were unjust and unreasonable, and in violation of section 5479, Chapter 351, of the Wyoming statutes.

Petitioners alleged that the distance rates on live stock published by defendant carriers for application within the state were very much higher than the maximum distance scales on live stock authorized to apply in other states where operating and traffic conditions were substantially similar, and that the Wyoming intrastate rates were much higher relatively than the prevailing level of rates to markets. It was also alleged that the carriers had not provided any just or reasonable basis for joint-line rates on live stock. Petitioners submitted as reasonable the basis of mileage rates which had been approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission for application in Texas, Oklahoma, parts of New Mexico, etc.

At the time of the filing of this petition the Interstate Commerce Commission had in contemplation its investigation into the reasonableness of all live-stock rates throughout the West under the Hoch-Smith Resolution adopted by Congress, January 30, 1925. The defendant carriers in the Wyoming case requested the Public Service Commission of Wyoming to defer any action on the state case until the Interstate Commerce Commission had completed its hearing on interstate live-stock rates. The Wyoming commission complied with that request, and this explains the long delay in the setting of this case.

On May 21, 1928, the Public Service Commission of Wyoming issued notice setting the hearing for Casper at 9 o'clock A. M., July 23, 1928. The notice states that one of the commissioners of the Interstate Commerce Commission will sit at this hearing in an advisory capacity. The state commissions in the West have been co-operating with the Interstate Commerce Commission in the hearing of the interstate case.

Stockmen who have any evidence to present should attend the hearing at Casper.

WESTERN LIVE-STOCK RATES

THE HEARING before the Interstate Commerce Commission on live-stock rates under the Hoch-Smith Resolution was concluded at Chicago on May 21, and briefs were ordered to be submitted by August 14.

This celebrated Hoch-Smith Resolution, designed to afford some relief to the agricultural and live-stock industries, was enacted by Congress on January 30, 1925. The Interstate Commerce Commission issued its notice thereunder about "rate-structure investigation" on March 12, 1925, stating that hearings would be assigned "at such time and such places as the commission may hereafter direct."

More than two years later, on May 16, 1927, the commission announced that western live-stock rates would be investigated, and that the proceeding would be known as Part 9, Docket 17000. The first hearing was held at Salt Lake City on June 30, 1927. Subsequent hearings took place at Portland, Los Angeles, Fort Worth, St. Paul, Kansas City, and Chicago. Perhaps by the first of the year (four years after the passage of the resolution) a decision may be handed down by the commission. The mills of the gods grind slowly indeed.

HOCH-SMITH INVESTIGATION A CUMBROUS TASK

THOSE—AND THEY ARE MANY—who have felt that the investigations of the Interstate Commerce Commission under the Hoch-Smith Resolution were dragging out to an interminable length may draw what comfort they can from a reply addressed by Johnston B. Campbell, chairman of the commission, to Homer Hoch, representative in Congress from Kansas and joint author of the resolution, who had complained of the delay in reaching a conclusion.

"A reconstruction of the rate structure," says Mr. Campbell, "is a gigantic task. There are no short-cut methods for making a record in such a huge proceeding." Already, we are told, "a record of 34,000 pages has been accumulated, and before the final hearings are concluded there will be some additional thousands of pages. Two of our experienced examiners attended all the sessions, and one member of our commission was in constant attendance during periods totaling thirty weeks. Daily sessions were held—three hours in the forenoon and three hours in the afternoon. That was all that the participants could stand, and more than some of them could endure for such prolonged periods of time."

As to the part of the investigation dealing with live stock, we are told that hearings in the Southeast have been concluded and that that portion is ready for report. Hearings in the remaining portion, involving rates in the western district, were expected to be completed by the end of May.

THE CALENDAR

- July 2-3, 1928—Annual Convention of Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association of Oregon, Enterprise, Ore.
- July 10-11, 1928—Annual Convention of Arizona Wool Growers' Association, Flagstaff, Ariz.
- July 18-20, 1928—Annual Convention of Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, Casper, Wyo.
- July 24-26, 1928—Annual Convention of Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association of Texas, San Angelo, Tex.
- August 8, 1928—Annual Ram Sale and Mid-Year Advisory Board Meeting of Idaho Wool Growers' Association, Filer, Idaho.
- August 27-30, 1928—National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- October 1-7, 1928—Annual Dairy Cattle Congress, Waterloo, Iowa.
- November 3-9, 1928—Ak-Sar-Ben Live Stock Show, Omaha, Neb.
- November 3-10, 1928—Pacific International Live Stock Show, Portland, Ore.
- November 12-15, 1928—Kansas National Live Stock Show, Wichita, Kan.
- November 13-15, 1928—Live Stock Show, San Francisco, Cal.
- November 16-17, 1928—Annual Convention of California Wool Growers' Association, San Francisco, Cal.
- November 17-24, 1928—American Royal Live Stock Show, Kansas City, Mo.
- December 1-8, 1928—International Live Stock Exposition, Chicago, Ill.
- December 5-10, 1928—Ogden Live Stock Show, Ogden, Utah.
- March 9-16, 1929—Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, Fort Worth, Tex.
- March 19-21, 1929—Annual Convention of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association, Houston, Tex.

THE PRODUCER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

IN THE INTEREST OF THE

LIVE STOCK INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED STATES

BY THE

AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION
PUBLISHING COMPANY

515 COOPER BUILDING, DENVER, COLORADO

Officers and Directors

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Subscription: One Year, \$1; Three Years, \$2.75; Six Years, \$5
Advertising Rates on Request

Volume X JUNE, 1928 Number 1

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

LIBERAL RAINS during May advanced crop conditions, which are described as fair to good over the whole country, although cold weather in some sections has tended to retard growth. Corn-planting is finished, but some cotton remains to be seeded. Wheat-harvesting in the Southwest, now about to begin, promises better than average returns. Both wheat and corn have declined on the Chicago market since last month.

Automobile manufacturing is at its annual spring peak, but steel-mill production has slowed up, and building is falling below that of a year ago. A price advance in anthracite coal was announced for June 1. Pig-iron prices are at the lowest point since 1915, but copper and zinc are rising. In textiles, a large percentage of cotton spindles are idle, while reports from the woolen industry are more favorable. Furniture and shoe factories have reduced their output.

Warmer weather has benefited the retail trade, and both wholesale and jobbing business shows improvement.

After a sharp reaction, the stock market has rallied. Bonds are lower. Money is firm, with rates for time funds advanced to 5½ per cent and call loans quoted at 6 per cent.

THE OMAHA BOYCOTT CASE

ON NOVEMBER 1, 1927, the Secretary of Agriculture issued an order for an investigation and hearing relative to a boycott being conducted by the members of the Omaha Live Stock Exchange and dealers on that market, and members

of the Traders' Live Stock Exchange, against the Record Live Stock Commission Company at Omaha, "for the purpose of driving out of business the said Record Live Stock Commission Company, an active competitor of respondents." An opportunity was granted by the secretary to respondents to explain their action on or before November 15, 1927. Counsel for respondents filed answer on November 14, generally denying the allegations set forth by the secretary. Thereupon a hearing was held at Omaha, commencing January 11, 1928. The case was argued at Washington on May 10, and the secretary rendered his decision on May 21.

The evidence developed that a boycott was being engineered by the members of the Omaha Live Stock Exchange and dealers on the Omaha market against the Record Live Stock Commission Company—an independent commission agency not a member of the Live Stock Exchange—and the secretary so found. We quote the following excerpt from the findings and conclusion:

The evidence in this case clearly discloses a general and widespread attempt to deny the advantages of an open competitive market to an agent of the farmer or producer, because this agent, selected by the shipper, was not a member of the Omaha Live Stock Exchange. This is a grave injustice to the shipper and to the agent.

The record demonstrates beyond a shadow of a doubt that such practices and devices as are ordinarily called a secondary boycott were brought about by the respondent market agencies, and a direct boycott by the respondent dealers. The courts have censured and condemned in unmistakable language a secondary boycott as being equally reprehensible as, and under some circumstances even more reprehensible than, a primary or direct boycott.

I cannot state too strongly that no personal hostility toward a market agency can excuse a boycott; neither can it be excused by the fact that a market agency either does not wish to belong to an exchange or may be ineligible for membership therein. In short, nothing can excuse the conditions shown by the record to exist with reference to any person or organization lawfully engaged in business at a posted stock-yard.

The establishment of an open competitive market is one of the prime essentials which the Packers and Stock-Yards Act was designed to accomplish and perpetuate, and this intent was defeated by the actions of the respondents. Upon the basis of my findings, I might suspend each respondent for a reasonable specified period, or issue a cease and desist order, or both, against every respondent whose name appeared in the inquiry and notice, and the amendment thereto, as corrected at the hearing; but in dealing with this case I feel it to be my first duty to cause normal conditions in the handling of live stock to be re-established at the earliest possible moment. At a conference with representatives of the respondents after the oral arguments, I was led to believe that the respondents would do their utmost to cause the course of normal trading to be resumed immediately and continued. Acting upon this belief, no order to cease and desist, or of suspension, will be issued at this time, but action in this respect will be held in abeyance until such time as it appears, if it does appear, that

the assurances thus given me will not be carried out in the utmost good faith.

It is, therefore, ordered that this case shall remain open, and that no final disposition thereof be made unless and until the Secretary of Agriculture deems further action advisable.

The members of the Omaha Live Stock Exchange and the Traders' Live Stock Exchange were not innocent or unwitting offenders against Section III of the Packers and Stock-Yards Act of 1921. They were perfectly well aware that their efforts to drive a competitor out of business by instituting the boycott were in violation of that act. Their utter disregard of their obligations to obey the law, which they assumed when they became registrants thereunder, does not encourage us to believe that they will be "good" now that they have been found guilty. They may have given their present assurances in the hope that they could accomplish their purpose by pursuing more discreet tactics. THE PRODUCER regrets that the secretary did not issue a "cease and desist" order, with penalty of suspension on its infraction.

This particular boycott was no doubt conceived and put into effect by the live-stock exchanges at Omaha. It was done in concert and in secrecy. If there had been no exchanges, the boycott would have been impossible. Are these live-stock exchanges necessary to insure fair dealing on the central markets? Have they been helpful in the administration of the act? We think not. The Secretary of Agriculture has full authority to regulate the conduct of business at the public markets, and the shippers look to him for protection.

THE FARM-BILL VETO

LAST YEAR, after the first presidential veto of the McNary-Haugen measure, THE PRODUCER ventured the suggestion that leaders in the movement for this kind of farm relief, before introducing a new bill, would be wise to find out from headquarters just how much Mr. Coolidge would concede, because more they were not likely to get as long as he was in office. Events have borne us out. On May 23 the President returned the repassed bill to Congress with a sizzling veto message that fairly made one's hair stand on end.

Of course, disapproval was not unexpected. A slow-dying hope seems to have survived in the breasts of some that the stubborn Yankee in the White House, in view of the unmistakably growing sentiment in favor of a try-out for this piece of remedial legislation, and also perhaps with one wise eye cocked toward the coming elections, might have yielded at least to the extent of permitting the bill to become a law without his signature. But the majority were prepared for what happened. Only the ferocity of

the manner of rejection took them by surprise. Verily, Mr. Coolidge is no opportunist; and his truculence will draw the reluctant respect from his opponents that men bestow on an uncompromising antagonist.

THE PRODUCER would have preferred to see the bill enacted. We have taken the ground that only an actual test can tell whether it is sound and feasible. Furthermore, with the farming sections of the country staunchly upholding the principle upon which it is based, and gaining support for it from year to year, it cannot be eliminated from the field of public discussion, nor from that of practical politics, as long as the situation continues that called it forth. The veto does not solve any problem—it simply prolongs the turmoil and increases the disaffection. From present appearances, the battle will be waged until won—if not under Mr. Coolidge, then under his successor. In one form or another, it will remain an issue until proved or disproved by experience, or until the agricultural depression has ceased to exist.

An interesting sidelight is thrown by this incident on the difference between the accepted limitations of a constitutional monarch and the extraordinary powers wielded by the United States executive. No king in Europe, although theoretically having the right, would have dared to defy the dictum of parliament, thus unequivocally and repeatedly expressed. Parliament is supposed to be the people, and the people's will is law. Otherwise in free America. Here the President, by virtue of his office and for the duration of its term, is the supreme arbiter as to what is good for the electors. If the electors do not like it, they have the consolation that they may repudiate him at the polls.

The most immediate effect of the veto will be its repercussions at the national conventions this month and the election in November. In the present mood of the embattled farmers of the Middle West, important results may be looked for.

IT IS AN EVIL BIRD —

A STAB from an unexpected quarter was administered to the live-stock industry the other day when the *El Paso Herald* printed this editorial:

Live-stock prices seem to be doing their best to make us a nation of vegetarians.

If they do no more than reduce our addiction to meat and increase our use of the leafy vegetables; if they only make us think less of steaks and more of salads, the health of the public will be bettered.

Add to that a cessation from fretting about business, an increase in devotion to outdoor exercise, a fair number of hours of sleep, and we shall see fewer people dropping over between fifty and sixty from heart disease.

Twenty years ago he who dined on vegetables, fruits, and nuts was regarded as a faddist. We now know he was on the right road to health, although well-cooked meat in moderate amounts also has its place in a varied diet list.

In view of the fact that El Paso, perhaps more than any other city in the United States (unless it be Cheyenne), owes its origin and present prosperity to the cattleman, this attack, it seems to us, comes with surprisingly bad grace. When the hotel men of Boston last winter preached rebellion against prevailing beef prices, there was this to be said in extenuation of their ill-advised and short-lived effort that they knew not what they were doing. A thousand miles away from the regions where the cattle were fed, and two thousand from where they were bred, they were completely out of touch with the situation responsible for the rise, and saw in producers only a species of latter-day profiteers. Otherwise with El Paso. Being located in the very heart of one of the chief remaining sections of the old-time "cow country," we should expect from an editor of that town, not only a clearer understanding of the conditions and requirements of the cattle business, but a more loyal regard for the welfare of the class upon which both he and it—the town—are in a large degree dependent for their support.

We shall not here repeat any of the old arguments for a diet in which animal proteins play a prominent part. Such a diet has been abundantly vindicated, both by the medical profession and by the practical experience of centuries, and to live-stock men needs no emphasis. But when a plea for curtailment of meat-eating is based on present prices, the injustice of the thing becomes appalling. Does the *Herald* recall what happened to the cattlemen of its territory during the period following the World War, when for seven long years they were compelled to sell their animals for less than it cost to produce them? Does it remember how the people engaged in other industries, while themselves paid for their labor or their products on a scale hitherto undreamed of, profited by this situation to keep their outlay for food down to a point entirely out of proportion with what was expended for other necessities? Does it realize that it is only now—since last autumn—that cattle prices have reached a level enabling the cattleman to break even, and perhaps to discharge some of the obligations incurred in the lean years? And does it begrudge him that opportunity—that belated measure of fair remuneration which others were enjoying while he was counting his losses?

If the editor of the *Herald* succeeds in having many of his readers follow his advice of dining "on vegetables, fruits, and nuts" in the future, he may or may not prolong his own and their individual lives, but will do a poor service to the town whose very life-

blood is the industry which he is doing his best to ruin. His other prescription for a ripe and unclouded old age, "cessation from fretting about business," will hardly apply to the people whom he would thus deprive of their means of making a living. There comes to mind an old proverb about a bird which fouls its own nest.

GOVERNMENT BEEF-GRADING

FREE GRADING OF BEEF by the government will be discontinued at the close of this month. The appropriation of \$50,000 asked of Congress by the National Live Stock and Meat Board for the continuation of this work, and which was included in the allowance for the Department of Agriculture recommended by the director of the Bureau of the Budget, for some reason or other was turned down by members of the House in conference. Being thus left without funds, the service will come to an end.

That is, the service which hitherto has been offered gratuitously to the packers will stop. The work itself will go on, provided there is enough of a demand for it, but at a charge of \$2 an hour to those requesting it. At the same time, the number of markets where government graders will be available is to be reduced from nine to four—the four being New York, Chicago, Kansas City, and Omaha.

As previously mentioned in these columns, for the past eight months some of the packers have been grading their own beef and putting it out under their own brand names. This practice presumably will be maintained.

Much as this unexpected setback is to be regretted, it should not be allowed to check the movement for truth in meats. The idea of meat being sold under government guarantee as to its quality has been steadily gaining ground, both with retailers and with the general public. During the fiscal year ended April 28, 1928, 44,357 prime and choice and 4,715 good beef carcasses, in addition to 12,738 prime and choice and 1,073 good beef cuts, were government-graded—the expansion of the service to include the "good" grade not having been made until January of this year. These figures sufficiently attest the appreciation of the service, started originally as an experiment.

It is hoped that the work of beef-grading during the coming year will prove its worth to the extent of convincing Congress of the importance of providing for its continuance and expansion. Not until the grading service is rendered free of cost—perhaps not until it is made compulsory—will it gain the universal application which alone can make the reform as effective as it should be, and make it stick. Much will depend upon the attitude of the packers.

ARE TRUTH-IN-FABRIC ACTS UNWORKABLE?

THEY ARE, indignantly asserts W. C. Hunneman, director of the Carded Woolen Manufacturers' Association of Boston. In a letter to Kleber H. Hadsell, president of the Wyoming Wool Growers' Association, concerning the alleged utter foolishness of the Wyoming law, recently declared constitutional by the Supreme Court of that state, Mr. Hunneman says:

We have repeatedly pointed out to you, your predecessors, Congress, and the public that such a law as the Wyoming act of 1925, requiring goods to be labeled to show the correct proportions of new wool and reworked wool, cannot be enforced, because it is impossible to distinguish new wool from reworked wool by any test—physical, chemical, or what not—when the two kinds of wool are mixed and manufactured into wool goods. . . . It is as absurd as a law requiring that every article made of metal that is offered for sale . . . shall be labeled to show the proportions of new metal that has never been used in the manufacture of any other article, and of old metal that has been melted over and mixed with the new.

As an argument, this is unconvincing. Were any legitimate purpose to be served by stating the proportions of old and new metal entering into the make-up of a silver bowl, why could not the manufacturer be required to reveal them?

Again, while it may be that no one but an analyst can tell the exact ingredients of a pound of margarine, for instance, *after* they have been mixed, the government, for its reference, in protection of the public health, demands that a record be kept of all the substances used in its manufacture.

What is there to hinder a similar rule being made applicable to owners of textile mills? If it is in the interest of producer and consumer to know that goods are not being sold under a false or misleading name (a point which has passed beyond discussion with the enactment of the law), why cannot manufacturers of clothing shipped in interstate commerce be required to secure from spinners a report on the nature of the materials—old wool, new wool, cotton, etc.—with their approximate percentages, entering into every piece of fabric they turn out?

That a law of this kind, as long as it applies to only a single state, will be more or less of a nuisance to goods- and clothing-manufacturers alike, necessitating an extra amount of bookkeeping for which there is no apparent return; may be true enough, but is rather beside the mark. Manufacturers and dealers in every line are subject to a variety of state regulations—a natural consequence of our form of government to which everybody must accommodate himself. And to the irritated question, "How do we know what particular pair of trousers is to be retailed in Raw-

lins, Wyoming? Must we go to the trouble of labeling all our products just to make sure that we comply with the preposterous notions of a handful of people in that sagebrush community?" the obvious answer is that, if they do not, somebody else will. Present-day competition is sufficiently keen to guarantee that no one need go trouserless.

But, if the principle of the law is a good one, the remedy for a situation like that ultimately lies, not in nullification of the law in the state which has led in enacting it, but in its extension to the whole country. Therefore the truth-in-fabric bill introduced in Congress by Senator Capper should be passed. Once this act is on our federal statute-books, we have no doubt that the Carded Woolen Manufacturers of Boston, as well as all other manufacturers, will not only find it perfectly feasible to distinguish shoddy from virgin wool *before* they are mixed, but will bow to the inevitable with good grace, and take the public into their confidence.

CATTLE-GRUBS

OUR ATTENTION has been called to an inconsistency between a statement contained in the note, "War to Be Waged on Cattle-Grub," in the May PRODUCER, and a passage in the leading article in the issue for January, 1927, entitled "The Heel-Fly or Cattle-Grub," from the pen of F. C. Bishopp, of the United States Bureau of Entomology. The statement in question has reference to the manner in which the grub gets into the anatomy of the cattle. On this subject we said in our May number: "The eggs of the insect are deposited upon the hairs of grazing animals and introduced into their systems by licking." Mr. Bishopp has this: "The formerly widely held view of entomologists and veterinarians that the cattle became infested by licking the eggs or young grubs off the hairs has been disproved by the recent thorough studies of this pest."

Of course, we do not presume to dispute the findings of experts, and had the results of the investigations of Mr. Bishopp and his colleagues been as fresh in our minds as they appear to have been in our vigilant correspondent's, we should have given due credit to the advancement of science. However, now that the point has been raised, we wish to suggest, what observers can verify for themselves, that cattle unquestionably do lick the spots irritated by the heel-flies, and that it would seem natural for them to take eggs or young larvæ into their mouths in that way. This may not be the only means of ingress, but, on the other hand, the possibility is not excluded by the discovery that the grub is capable of boring through the skin directly.

The main thing is that he gets into the animal, fattens on its "innards," and gets out again in a most disconcerting fashion. His starting-point and exact route may be interesting enough, but are relatively immaterial.

Foot-and-Mouth in Argentina

A decree has been issued by the Argentine government ordering cattle coming into the markets infected with foot-and-mouth disease to be slaughtered within forty-eight hours and not to be sold for consumption.

THE STOCKMEN'S EXCHANGE

HOW TO REDUCE FREIGHT BILL

MARFA, TEX., May 25, 1928.

TO THE PRODUCER:

At the present time, when operating expenses are continually getting heavier on the shoulders of the ranchmen, we are compelled as never before to make a special effort to reduce expenses of ranch operation as a means of existence.

One of the most difficult and threatening factors with which ranchmen have to contend is excessive freight charges. Railroad companies lament that they are not making enough profit. The *Railway Age* estimates "the net operating income of all the roads last year at 4.74 per cent, as compared with 5.5 in 1926, 5.22 in 1925, 4.69 in 1924, and 4.83 in 1923." This railway organ complains that, despite the decline in net operating income in 1927, the Interstate Commerce Commission fails to make compensating advances.

An average net profit of 4.74 per cent on the cattle industry of the entire United States would appear a bonanza in the estimation of the many financially "broke" and badly bent cattlemen of today.

Doubtless the authors of the legislation to regulate railroad traffic thought they were accomplishing a great public service; but to limit freight and passenger charges, and at the same time permit railroads to fix their own salaries, is like putting up the fence and leaving the gate open.

Could I be granted the privilege of paying myself a salary and fixing the amount as ranch manager, I could safely guarantee that the net earnings from my ranch interests would never exceed 5.75 per cent, as provided for in section 15-a of the Transportation Act with respect to railroads.

The Hoch-Smith Resolution was passed by both houses of Congress in January, 1925, directing the Interstate Commerce Commission to make the lowest possible rates on agricultural products affected by the depression, including live stock. While the commission has been extending its hearings over a period of more than three years, the hearings are still pending, or at least a final decision has not yet been rendered.

With railroads contending for higher freights, and with the tendency of the commission to defer action, it is up to the ranchmen to resort to the next best plan—and that is to *do less shipping*. There are two ways of reducing freight charges, one of which is to get rates lowered, and the other to ship less.

There are many items of freight in the operation of a ranch that can be eliminated or reduced. One of the best, and probably the most effective, is to stock light and avoid the necessity of shipping in feedstuffs—or, what is worse, "shipping out to grass." Rather than pay two freights and a pasture bill, it would in nearly every instance be more profitable to ship direct to the market and accept canner prices.

In some localities prairie hay can be saved; or, where farming is successful, feedstuffs can be raised; special pas-

tures can be reserved to take care of poor cows; and in some instances home-grown feed can be purchased without a freight bill being attached.

Much money is wasted shipping in bulls from a distance. When a man wants bulls, let him inspect the best herds nearest him, and compare prices and quality, before going afar off, necessitating the expense of excessive freight rates. In some instances the bulls can be trucked or driven to destination at much less cost than if freighted.

Of course, there are some cases where we have to pay the freight, whether we like it or not. Recently I bought a car (50 tons) of stock salt. The price, f.o.b. my unloading station, was \$11 per ton, of which \$3 was for salt and the remaining \$8 freight charges.

L. C. BRITE.

SPEED OF ANTELOPES

MIZPAH, MONT., May 12, 1928.

TO THE PRODUCER:

With reference to the antelope controversy, I wish to say that a horse may catch some antelopes, but not all. While going to Miles City last fall, my car was just nicely broken in about one thousand miles of travel. I saw an antelope ahead of me—a fine buck in good form—and knew that I could intersect with him, which I did, he turning up the road just a few feet in front of the radiator. He was going strong at forty miles an hour, but when I forced him to forty-one miles he quit the road. It seemed that he could go that fast only with an extreme effort. How will race-horse time compare with this?

ALEX J. McCULLOCH.

SOUTHERN COLORADO GETS PLENTY OF RAIN

PUEBLO, COLO., May 14, 1928.

TO THE PRODUCER:

We have been having abundant rains in this part of Colorado during the month of May—rains everywhere. This will mean good grass and fat stock. Crop prospects are excellent. Seed has enough moisture to come through the ground without irrigation. This is a condition that we have not had for several years.

C. W. BEACH.

MOISTURE FOR MONTANA

DECKER, MONT., May 15, 1928.

TO THE PRODUCER:

We are having a much-needed rain in this neck of the woods. It has rained slowly, but almost constantly, for thirty-six hours. Grass is well started, and stock is doing fine.

B. F. SHREVE.

BIXBY REPLIES TO BORDERS

AS PART OF THE PROPAGANDA in favor of the Capper-Hope bill being directed from Kansas City, letters have lately been sent to several of the more prominent opponents of that measure, among them Senator John B. Kendrick, of Wyoming, and Fred H. Bixby, of Long Beach, California, both former presidents of the American National Live Stock Association. The communications are signed by M. W. Borders, Jr., attorney-at-law, who appears to be in supreme command of the Kansas City forces. Although considerably more urbane in form than some of the voluminous articles which have appeared in the market papers, especially that published at Kansas City, attacking these gentlemen and the National Association in unmeasured terms, they nevertheless abound in misstatements and false conclusions, using the well-known tactics of building up an elaborate argumentative structure on imaginary premises, and then catapulting it with a great blare of trumpets.

The author of the letters, who has thought enough of his efforts to have them issued in pamphlet form for general distribution, reverts to the old charge of a change of front on the part of Mr. Bixby, Mr. Kendrick, and the American National Live Stock Association with respect to this legislation, comparing the present Capper bill with that introduced by Senator Kendrick about eight years ago. The letters are altogether too long to quote in full. Furthermore, *THE PRODUCER* has already dealt with the alleged inconsistency, which is wholly non-existent in fact. If Mr. Borders would cease juggling with mere verbiage and confine himself to a straightforward consideration of underlying purposes, he would soon discover this for himself. Let us repeat: The avowed object of the Capper bill is to stop, or restrict, direct buying of hogs in the country. On the other hand, untrammelled freedom of marketing methods has ever been a principle militantly advocated by the National Association and its leading members.

We print below Mr. Bixby's answer to Mr. Borders' letter addressed to him:

"LONG BEACH, CAL., April 24, 1928.

"DEAR MR. BORDERS:

"I am not going into any discussion on the Capper-Hope bill with you, primarily because it will do no particular good, and secondarily because you are for the bill and I am against it, and against any bill of that character.

"You are correct in your statement that I was representing the American National Live Stock Association at the hearing in Washington in February. In addition to that, I was representing the state associations of California, New Mexico, and Arizona.

"From what I can ascertain, it looks to me as if the preponderance of testimony on the Capper-Hope proposition was against the bill, even as amended.

"I have not changed my mind personally about the underlying principles of this proposed legislation, and I am quite sure the American National Live Stock Association has not changed its attitude. My personal opinion in this matter is that the Kansas City stock-yards have undoubtedly lost considerable business in the last few years—their volume has probably been considerably less in the hog line than formerly—and that the Capper-Hope bill is primarily for the purpose of forcing this volume back into the Kansas City market in particular.

"I still stick to my remark that the way to get back quantity of business at the central markets is by providing to live-stock producers more satisfactory service, better prices, lower commissions, fairer practices, and less manipulations, rather than by passing legislation in an endeavor to force business through these markets.

"In closing, let me say that I am not the only live-stock producer opposed to legislation of the character of the Capper-Hope bill. Also let me state that the cattlemen are not contemplating any disagreement with the hog men. As near as

I can ascertain, the hog men are very friendly with the cattlemen. This friendly feeling among all live-stock producers is entirely mutual, and, as far as I can see, the producers of all kinds of live stock are co-operating better than ever before.

"Yours very truly,
"FRED H. BIXBY."

We have no doubt that Senator Kendrick has replied in a kindred vein.

CORN-BORER CONTROL IN EUROPE

FARMERS IN EUROPE have learned to "live with" the corn-borer, and in many districts over there it does comparatively little damage. In fact, two entomologists of the United States Department of Agriculture who have spent most of the last six years in France, Spain, and Italy report for that section that they have never seen a single corn plant broken over or a single ear seriously injured through the attack of this insect. They went into regions where corn-borers were at work in the fields, and found that the farmers had no knowledge of them.

W. R. Thompson and H. L. Parker, the entomologists in question, and joint authors of Technical Bulletin 59-T, "The European Corn-Borer and Its Controlling Factors in Europe," explain that in certain parts of Europe the borer seems to have reached a state of something like equilibrium of numbers, with the balance struck by its normal reproductive capacity as opposed by the natural and artificial factors that limit its multiplication. No reason is seen to expect any such state of balance in the United States for at least twenty years, and in the meantime corn-growers here must prepare themselves to "live with" the borer as it exists, and to make any adjustments that prove necessary in gaining control of the insect.

The control that makes the borer unimportant as an economic pest in western Europe is the result of a combination of factors. These include weather and climate, cultural practices, the relative unimportance of corn as a crop, parasites, and the reduction in the numbers of borers due to the characteristics of structure and habits peculiar to the species. Artificial control is largely the result of methods of cultivation and agricultural practices which were not adopted with a view to checking the corn-borer, but which, in fact, have served that end.

"In the corn area," the authors say, "cultivation is generally cleaner than in the United States, and waste areas overgrown with weeds are much less common. In some districts the corn is 'topped and stripped' after the ears are fertilized, which may or may not have an effect on the multiplication of borers. The farmers cut the tops from the plants and strip the leaves for use as fodder. In many districts the cornstalks are pulled in the early fall, and used for fodder, bedding, or fuel. Some of the stalks are chopped or shredded. In many districts the great majority of stalks have disappeared in one way or another before spring."

CATTLE DUTIES TO BE INVESTIGATED

ORAL ANNOUNCEMENT has been made by the United States Tariff Commission that it has decided to institute a survey of the live-cattle industry, which reference to importations into this country, principally from Canada and Mexico.

Under the Tariff Act, the commission is authorized from time to time to undertake such investigations, with a view to making recommendations to the President, who may then administratively raise or lower existing tariff rates on the commodities in question 50 per cent, to equalize shifting differences in production costs in the United States and abroad.

WHAT THE GOVERNMENT IS DOING

IN CONGRESS

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS of the Seventieth Congress was disposed of when the Jones-Reid flood-control bill (S. 3740) was signed by the President on May 15. As modified in conference, the bill provides for a special board of three members, including the Chief of Army Engineers, the president of the Mississippi River Commission, and a civilian engineer to be appointed by the President, to have general charge of the work—"the greatest engineering feat since the Panama Canal"—under the direction of the Secretary of War. The first duty of the board will be to choose between, or combine features from, two plans proposed—one by the Chief of Army Engineers and the other by the Mississippi River Commission. The project involves the construction of an elaborate system of levees, flood-ways, and spill-ways all the way from Cape Girardeau in Missouri to the Gulf of Mexico.

An appropriation of \$325,000,000 is authorized, to be made available from time to time during the ten years estimated to be required for the completion of the work. However, a much larger amount may eventually be needed. The entire cost is to be borne by the government. While the principle of local contribution, on which the President laid so much stress, is recognized as sound, nevertheless, in view of the large sums already spent by the states on protective measures, as well as the national character of the undertaking, this requirement is waived. States, however, are to provide rights-of-way for levee foundations and to give assurance that they will maintain the control works after these have been completed.

After passing the House without a record vote, the Swing-Johnson bill appropriating \$125,000,000 for construction of a dam across the Colorado River at Boulder Canyon, on the Arizona-Nevada line, and for allied projects, failed of passage in the Senate before adjournment on May 29. It will now be carried over as unfinished business until the December session.

As passed by the House, the President would have direct supervision over the expenditure of the money, instead of the Secretary of the Interior as provided in the bill as it came from committee. Another amendment adopted makes construction of a government hydro-electric power plant mandatory instead of discretionary, power to be sold at rates approved either by the Federal Water Power Commission or by authorized state agencies.

The conference report on the Norris-Morin resolution (S. J. Res. 46) for the development of the Muscle Shoals property was adopted by Congress on May 25, the vote in the Senate being 43 to 34, and in the House 211 to 146.

This legislation has been before Congress for several years and has been discussed repeatedly by the President in his annual messages. Mr. Coolidge has been endeavoring to get

the project out of the hands of the government and into private management. The resolution, however, provides for government operation of the plants at Muscle Shoals for the generation, sale, and distribution of power and for the manufacture of fixed nitrates.

(This bill was vetoed through a so-called "pocket veto," the President having failed to sign it within ten days after its passage, and Congress meanwhile having adjourned.)

* * *

President Coolidge on May 24 signed the bill (H. R. 12632) authorizing an appropriation of \$7,000,000 for prevention of the spread of the European corn-borer. Appropriation of the amount, however, was blocked in the House on the last day of the session.

* * *

The Senate has passed the bill, introduced by Senator Heflin, of Alabama, making it unlawful for the government to predict cotton prices.

* * *

Consideration of the Capper-Hope bill amending the Packers and Stock-Yards Act, which would place private stock-yards under the operation of the act and is aimed at direct buying by packers, has been postponed by the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives until December 10, when it will be made a special order of business.

* * *

A request for information as to the present status of the Packers' Consent Decree, entered in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in 1920, was contained in a resolution (S. Res. 248) introduced by Senator Copeland, of New York, shortly before Congress adjourned. The resolution went over for future consideration.

* * *

Senate Resolution No. 222, submitted by Senator Norris, of Nebraska, was adopted on May 7 by a vote of 46 to 31. The resolution requests the Supreme Court of the United States, before which the order of the Interstate Commerce Commission in the St. Louis & O'Fallon railway-valuation case is pending on appeal, to permit Donald R. Richberg, counsel for the National Conference on Valuation of American Railroads, to appear by brief and in oral argument. The National Conference was organized in 1923 for the purpose of preventing an overvaluation of the roads.

This case, involving, as it does, a line of only twenty-one miles, has been referred to as "the greatest lawsuit in history," since it will determine a question of principle which will be applicable to all the railroads in the country.

In fixing, for recapture purposes, the value of the O'Fallon road in 1920, the commission took its value of 1914 and added thereto costs for additions and betterments subsequent to that date. The railroad, on the other hand, demanded a valuation based on what it would cost to reproduce its property in 1920.

In the District Court the commission's system of arriving at the valuation was upheld, and the road appealed.

The difference between the two methods of figuring valuation, applied to the entire railroad net of the United States, runs into billions of dollars. As the roads are allowed to charge transportation rates which will give them a net return of up to 5.75 per cent on their total valuation, the importance of the case to shippers will be readily seen.

* * *

On May 25 the Senate adopted a resolution (S. Res. 250), introduced by Senator Wheeler, of Montana, requesting the Interstate Commerce Commission to ascertain whether rates similar to those in force in Canada on grain, live stock, and other agricultural products in the Northwest would be compensatory to the American railroads operating in that territory. If, upon investigation, such rates are found to be compensatory, the commission is requested to reduce northwestern rates, so as to place the American farmer on an equality with the Canadian farmer in this respect. A report is asked for at the beginning of the next session of Congress.

PRESIDENT AGAIN VETOES FARM-RELIEF BILL

AS ANTICIPATED, President Coolidge, on May 23, for the second time within a year, vetoed the McNary-Haugen bill, running the whole gamut of denunciation in doing so. The measure, he says, "is as cruelly deceptive in its disguise as governmental price-fixing legislation, and involves quite as unmistakably the impossible scheme of attempted governmental control of buying and selling of agricultural products through political agencies, as any of the other so-called surplus-control bills."

"There is apparent a change in the import of the bill," he continues, "in the resolution to impose upon the farmer and upon consumers of farm produce a regime of futile, delusive experiments in price-fixing, with indirect governmental buying and selling, and with a nation-wide system of regulatory policing, intolerable espionage, and tax collection on a vast scale. A bureaucratic tyranny of unprecedented proportions would be let down upon the backs of the farm industry," placing a premium upon evasion and dishonesty.

"It seems almost incredible that the farmers of this country are being offered this scheme of legislative relief in which the only persons who are guaranteed a benefit are the exporters, packers, millers, canners, spinners, and other processors. . . . It contains the amazing proposal to supply foreign workers with cheaper food than those of the United States, and this at the expense of the American farm industry, thereby . . . affording, through reduced food prices, the means of cutting the wages paid by foreign manufacturers. This is, indeed, an extraordinary process of economic reasoning, if such it could be called. Certainly it is a flagrant case of direct, insidious attack upon our whole agricultural and industrial strength. By the inevitable stimulation of production, the bill can only mean an increase of exportable surplus to be dumped in the world market. This in turn will bring about a constantly decreasing world price, which will soon reach so low a figure that a wholesale curtailment of production in this country, with its attendant demoralization and heavy losses, would be certain. Where is the advantage of dragging our farmers into such folly?"

If the bill were enacted, said the President, Canadian hog-growers could buy corn from the United States cheaper than American hog-growers, and would have this advantage in marketing their hogs in competition with ours.

"In other words, the framers of this measure naively submit a proposal to save the American live-stock grower by supplying his oversea rivals with abundant feedstuffs at reduced rates. It would be difficult indeed to conceive a more preposterous economic and commercial fallacy. . . . Once we plunged into the futile sophistries of such a system of whole-

sale commercial doles for special groups of middlemen and distributors, at the expense of farmers and other producers, it is difficult to see what the end might be."

For good measure, the message was accompanied by an opinion from the Attorney-General, holding the equalization-fee feature of the bill unconstitutional.

Mr. Coolidge expressed the hope that his previous recommendations for co-operative marketing legislation might be enacted. On account of the short time remaining before the adjournment of Congress, this was out of the question at the expired session. An attempt, on May 26, to pass the objectionable bill over the President's veto failed in the Senate, the vote being 50 to 31.

GRAZING LEGISLATION GOES OVER

HEARINGS HAVE BEEN HELD before the respective congressional committees on the Phipps bill (S. 2328) for the "development, protection, and utilization of grazing facilities within national forests," and on the Colton bill (H. R. 9283) for the establishment of grazing districts on the public domain, but neither measure was reported out before Congress adjourned.

In a report on the Phipps bill to Senator McNary, chairman of the Senate committee, Secretary of Agriculture Jardine expressed his general disapproval of the bill, because it puts into a statute rules and regulations governing the use of grazing lands on national forests which would remain flexible to suit various needs and conditions. He likewise, through his representative at the hearing, opposed the continuation of the present fees for a period of ten years, on the ground that those fees did not represent the actual worth of the lands leased for grazing, and that it would be unfair for the government to guarantee their maintenance. Another objection raised was to the proposed redistribution to the states of 37.5 per cent of the fees collected. This rate, with the additional 10 per cent for road improvement, making the whole amount allotted to the states 47.5 per cent, was declared to be excessive.

* * *

We regret to state that the so-called "isolated-tract bill," introduced by Senator Walsh, of Montana, which was reported as having been passed (see May PRODUCER, page 14), according to word received from its author, was *not* passed. Since its failure to be adopted may be ascribed solely to the jam of important legislation during the last days of Congress, it should, however, be favorably acted upon early in the next session.

PROGRESS OF TUBERCULOSIS ERADICATION

IN THE MONTH OF APRIL, 953,795 cattle were tested for tuberculosis under the eradication plan carried out by the Bureau of Animal Industry in co-operation with the different states. Of this number, 22,743, or 2.4 per cent, reacted. This percentage of reactors is only about half of what it was when the work was started, showing the progressive elimination of the disease from our herds.

Cattle found free of tuberculosis after one test numbered 15,493,012, or slightly more than one-fourth of our total cattle population. Under supervision were 20,776,112 head, which indicates that one-third of all the cattle in the country have now been tested for tuberculosis.

On the accredited list, showing less than one-half of 1 per cent of tubercular infection, there were 162,749 herds, containing 2,188,909 cattle. Of accredited counties we now have a total of 487, North Carolina leading with 91, and Michigan following with 53.

THE MARKETS

LIVE-STOCK MARKET IN MAY

BY JAMES E. POOLE

CHICAGO, ILL., June 1, 1928.

PERIODICALLY THE CATTLE MARKET RUNS AMUCK—invariably without intimation. Such debacles as developed late in May, when prime heavy steers declined \$1 per cwt. within a few hours, come out of a clear sky. The usual symptom of impending trouble is when buyers are called in and trading is suspended—temporarily at least—to be renewed only at sharply lower prices. It confounds price-stabilization philosophy, especially as recovery is prompt, as in this instance. At current prices, the beef-house is naturally timid; but beef-house psychology is peculiar. Just why a cut of the same drove of cattle should sell 95 cents per cwt. lower on a Wednesday than on the following Tuesday would be inexplicable but for realization of the fact that cattle are high, and that the beef-house throws a fit whenever two or three unsold carcasses accumulate on the hang-rail.

Heavy Cattle Experience Dollar Decline

Heavy cattle, the product of which is the best beef ever carved, had been selling at \$14.50 to \$15 before the May crash came; at the bottom of the break they were 75 cents to \$1 per cwt. lower, and unsalable at the decline. From the high point in April, when tops of the Bicknell cattle from Grand Island, Nebraska, sold at \$15.15 and the tail ends at \$14.50, until the fourth week of April, when \$13.25 took the tops and \$12.65 the tail ends, the market fluctuated, alternately breaking and recovering, until the grand finale occurred—and that was a standard drove.

Cheaper Grades Escape Drop

All this merely emphasizes the fact that preparing heavy cattle for the butcher is a hazardous operation, as this vicissitude did not involve the whole list. In fact, while choice heavy steers broke \$1 per cwt., yearlings and the cheaper grades of light cattle lost little. The result was to place the premium on yearlings, which were always eligible to \$14.50, when big steers good enough for heavy trade had to take \$13.50, and plain big cattle sold down to \$12.65.

Recession Due to Several Causes

That recovery during the last few days of May was emphatic is poor consolation to those caught in the slump. Such catastrophes are always due to a combination of conditions more or less fortuitous. In this instance Nebraska filled the market hopper to the overflow stage during a week when a set of Jewish holidays appeared on the calendar; but there is no getting around the fact that the \$18 to \$19 market on a handful of big steers last fall resulted in excess production of that grade of beef this season, and no system of grading, government or private, would have averted what happened. The fact that killers refused to buy heavy cattle at the bottom of the slump, contending that outlet channels were gorged with the product, but were out after the same type of steers early the following week, restoring practically all the depreciation in two days, does suggest bad buying. A sudden

expansion in cattle-supply volume has invariably created an impression in beef-trade circles that the heavy movement would continue—an erroneous idea, as usually the sharp break incidental to such expansion checks loading in the country. The beef-house frequently approves free buying on an upturn in prices, only to put on the clamps suddenly when the rise dislodges cattle. Such situations are invariably accompanied by a confirmed habit in feeding circles of ordering cars following sharp price bulges. Nebraska feeders have paid a stiff penalty this season, consequent on buying cattle high, at Denver and elsewhere, last fall. They went into the feed-lot simultaneously, and were impelled to market by a rising feed bill.

No Repetition Expected This Season

What happened late in May will probably not be repeated this season, as feeders have learned their lesson. Fundamentally the situation is sound, the probability being that thirty days hence killers will again be riding stock-yard alleys hard in quest of big steers, as April and May liquidation was on a free scale, and the visible supply for the ensuing six months is by no means excessive, even when restricted demand for heavy beef is taken into the reckoning. Repetition of what happened in 1926 is impossible, as corn was both abundant and cheap at that time, and many native steers had been recently put into feed-lots. When this crop of steers, weighing 1,300 pounds and up, has gone to the butcher, the jig will be up.

Inferior Qualities in Brisk Demand

The outstanding feature of early summer fat-cattle trade has been demand for light and inferior cattle. The usual spring run of Texas grassers did not report. Chicago did not get its recent run of reactor dairy cows, and those who laid in common cattle last fall pursued a safety-first policy by getting them onto the market prior to the period when bovine inferiority has heretofore had a wallop. The result was that the scalawag type of steer with a beef sheathing has sold relatively high right along, and cows, with the exception of the heavy kosher type, have been prize packages. At \$6.50, killers have bought merely light canning cows, and the \$8

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kind was nothing but good cutters. Heifers have found a phenomenal market at \$10 to \$12 in the case of butcher stuff, and anywhere from \$12 to \$14 if of the baby-beef type. Bologna bulls at \$9 to \$9.50 per cwt. complete the story of high prices for so-called cheap cattle.

Consumers Giving Preference to Light-Weight Beef

In steer circles an abnormal, although not unprecedented, situation has existed, the beef of an inferior animal at \$11.50 on the hoof costing as much per pound in the carcass as that of a choice heavy steer worth \$14.50 alive. This indicates an effort to reduce cost on the part of consumers by taking low-grade, light-weight beef; also an effort on the part of retailers to maintain their profit margins by handling the same grades. Such has been the demand for the cheaper grades of steers selling at \$11.50 to \$12.50 per cwt. that trade in two-way steers disappeared, killers asserting prior right to a lot of light, fleshy cattle that under normal supply conditions would have gone back to the country. On the breaks, feeders did buy a few fleshy steers at \$12.75 to \$13.25 per cwt., but their picking was poor. During May the market position of cheap cattle, so-called, was emphasized by a short percentage of cows, heifers, and fed steers selling below \$12.75. When good heavy bullocks broke as much as a dollar, the "cheap skates" did not budge a penny, and early June found all kinds of light cattle at the high point of the season, mixed steer and heifer yearlings topping the market, with a long string of baby-beef yearlings at \$13 to \$14.

Average Price \$2.50 over Year Ago

Fat cattle have averaged around \$2.50 per cwt. higher than during the corresponding period of 1927. The average cost of all fat steers at Chicago has been right around \$13.25, against \$10.75 a year ago, the previous three-year average for the same period figuring \$9.95, so that it is not difficult to realize that present prices are high. The feeder has been handicapped, however, by increased cost of putting on gains, incidental to the rise in corn and scarcity of feed in many sections. At the prices, especially of beef, to the ultimate consumer, it is illogical to be a bull.

Yearlings Close Month at High Point

Light cattle and yearlings closed May at the highest levels of the season, \$14.75 being paid for yearling steers and \$14 for heifers, but heavy cattle at \$14.50 were \$4 per cwt. below the high spot in January, although they had recovered practically all the mid-May decline.

Good Hog Trade May Be Looked for All Summer

Hogs advanced about \$2 per cwt. from the low point, then broke 75 cents on free marketing. This was inevitable, as many growers held back for the long-deferred upturn, cutting close when it occurred. Supply during May was somewhat below that of last year, but there were plenty of hogs to go around. The surprise was the manner in which packers, big and little, took hold of heavy butchers, weighing 250 to 350 pounds, late in May, when 250-pound hogs sold right at the top, and a narrow spread of 25 cents per cwt., or \$9.65 to \$9.95, took the bulk weighing 180 to 300 pounds. This market discredited previous contention that stocks of lard and heavy meats were burdensome, but it was regarded as a herald of a good trade all through the summer on finished hogs of all weights. A deluge of half-fat underweights and pigs tells the story of corn scarcity, discouragement in producing circles, and the fact that young hogs have not been doing well on inferior corn. At the Chicago market about 5,000 of such hogs have been fed right along by speculators,

who work them off on eastern orders. All three big packers were free buyers late in May, frequently cleaning up every hog available, taking second-class and even inferior stuff. Stocks of both lard and meats are heavy, but packers are bragging of their inventories—around 40 per cent heavier than last year—as evidence of their strong financial position. Considerable export trade is going on, especially in lard, discrediting assertion that the European outlet is all but closed, exports of both lard and meats for the first four months of 1928 running considerably over the corresponding period of last year. Possibly Europe has been replenishing its larder in anticipation of higher hog values, but much of the stuff going across the Atlantic and to near-by foreign countries is finding its way into immediate consumption. Domestic consumption of fresh pork continues heavy, and the merchandising season for cured meats is opening auspiciously, the probability being that packers will profit substantially on their winter and spring processing.

High Lamb Market Due to Scarcity

A phenomenal lamb market has been due to scarcity. But for a free run of California lambs, that product would have been a luxury all through May, as feed-lots were practically cleaned up early in the month, southern lambs were backward, and a mere handful of native springers were available. An \$18 to \$19 market for spring lambs, and a \$16.50 to \$17.25 trade in shorn lambs of the old crop, reveal scarcity. Packers cleaned up on their California contracts to a greater extent than last year. This May run from the central California valley is considered permanent. It fills in the gap between feed-lot and northwestern supply, enjoying a non-competitive market, even the feeder end, at \$13 to \$14, getting a cordial reception, especially at Omaha, where these lambs are shorn and put




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into dry-lot for a quick turn-over. Colorado feeders have had one of the most profitable seasons in the history of the industry thereabout, and late shearing at feed-lots adjacent to the market has been highly remunerative. The advance in wool and pelts has been a price-sustaining factor, especially in the case of heavy-fleeced big lambs. Perhaps the most surprising feature of the market has been a broad demand for extreme-weight lambs, even the 97- to 100-pound kinds, which sold close to top prices.

Northwesterns Early Arrivals

Idaho lambs reached Chicago and Omaha late in May—the earliest on record—earning \$18.75 to \$19 per cwt. Last year the first northwestern lambs of the new crop reported at Chicago on June 9, to realize \$18.75. These early lambs, dropped in January, cost money to raise, but reach market during a gap in supply to earn enough to justify the additional expense.

STOCKER SCARCITY A REAL PROBLEM

J. E. P.

STOCK CATTLE are \$2.50 to \$3 per cwt. higher than a year ago. There were no indications of a June break, repeating what occurred last year, and, if the present corn-crop prospect materializes, no bargain sale will be held in November. The present cattle-trade problem is not beef-rail replenishment, but feed-lot and pasture replacement.

Paying \$13 for 1,200-pound cattle to go on grass in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Indiana may sound preposterous, but it has actually happened recently. Mineral Point, Wisconsin, pasturemen have paid \$11 per cwt. in Montana for hay-fed steers, and were willing to pay more—and that means \$13 delivered in Wisconsin. One string of Big Hole, Montana, cattle was bid \$11.05 per cwt. at the loading-point early in May, but was consigned to Chicago by the owner, to realize \$12.50, two loads making \$13. A year ago the same cattle sold at \$8.25 at the loading-point.

At Omaha 600-pound Wyoming yearlings have gone to feeders at \$13 per cwt. It has been a \$12 to \$12.75 trade in yearlings at Chicago. One buyer carried an order which he

was anxious to execute at \$13 all through May, but failed to get cattle equal to his specifications. Considerable trash went out from \$10 down, and at \$11 feeders did not get quality to justify bragging.

Stock cows and heifers have all but disappeared from the supply. A New York man picked up 200 head at \$7.75 to \$7.85 about the middle of May, but needed 500. The same buyer took out a string of steers at \$11.50, saying he would be under the necessity of apologizing when he got them home. The Mineral Point grazing area had secured about half its usual summer quota by June 1, and had concluded to go through the summer on that basis. Indiana, Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, Maryland, the Virginias, Pennsylvania, and New York—everywhere, in fact, that grass grows—have been clamoring for cattle, with scant prospect of filling up.

Usually, or heretofore at this season, Chicago gets a run of so-called native, or "red," cattle from near-by territory, but it did not materialize on this occasion, suggesting that beef-bred cattle have been cleaned up to make room for dairy herds. The rugged northeastern section of Iowa, noted for stock-cattle production, has swung to dairying, and Missouri, which formerly boasted a commercial breeding industry of considerable magnitude, no longer justifies buying expeditions. At Chicago it has been a run of beef all season, stocker men being under the necessity of picking out individuals and bunches instead of full loads. Rarely has it been necessary to carry stock cattle over the week-end, and even when the fat-cattle market has gone on an occasional spree, stocker trade has ignored the debauch. Such has been demand for cheap, light, common beef that the feed-lot and pasture have been cheated of many a promising prospect. The army of so-called two-way cattle, eligible either to the butcher or to the feeder outlet, has been mainly diverted to the shambles. Feeders have made competition on qualified half-fat steers, but the kinds lacking quality have had no chance to go back to the country, killers bidding prices prohibitive to feeders. A raft of light and half-fat steers has gone to killers at \$10.50 to \$12 that a few years ago would not have been given serious consideration. Scarcity of butcher cattle, cows, heifers, and bulls has accentuated killer demand for light, cheap steers.

A dry spell through April and May was responsible for short pastures nearly everywhere, which restricted demand for grazing cattle; yet at no time were there enough to go around. Scarcity at the market probably indicates a disposition to hold young cattle back in the country, but trade scouts report general depletion. The fact is that liquidation of native cattle has been even more complete than in the case of westerns, as it amounts to a clean-up. This is evidenced by the few Angus and Shorthorns now available. And, what is more, there is scant prospect of replacement. Other than yearlings, native cattle will soon be rare. Dairying has gone on a specialized basis, regardless of dual-purpose logic, the black-and-white Holstein having become dominant; and it is on the ground to stay. With veal calves earning \$14 to \$16 per cwt., even though convertible into fat, low-grade yearlings, Holstein calves will go to the veal-rack.

A restocking problem confronts the whole country, from California to New York and from Kansas to Montana. A good corn crop will start early purchasing of anything wearing a hide to consume it; a lot of soft corn, resultant from a possible September freeze, will create a buying flurry. Common little southern steers made so much money passing through feed-lots last winter that they will be in request. Probably a still-hunt will be in progress long before corn is ready to husk.

An Indiana man, endowed with foresight, went down into Chihuahua a few weeks back, returning with around 500 steers

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typical of the bovine product of that region—two- and three-year-old yearlings—based on weight that cost \$7.60 per cwt. laid down. They caused a furor in the neighborhood, speculators riding many miles to view the freaks from a local viewpoint. He proposes to get a cheap summer gain on grass, feeding them out next winter; but the wise guys predict that the grass gain will be disappointing. The importation indicates the strenuous character of the present replacement campaign.

HAY-FED HOGS

J. E. P.

ED TILDEN, of Chicago, a power in Packingtown early in the present century, "kidded" a group of Denver reporters at the Brown Palace about that time. Tilden was dilating on the future of the intermountain live-stock industry, painting word-pictures of Denver's approaching dominance as a packing center, and incidentally asserting that the hay-fed hog would make it possible. "But you can't fatten a hog on hay," ventured a skeptical scribe. "You can," asserted Tilden. "Don't they make 'em fat on grass in Ireland, and isn't our alfalfa better than even Irish grass?"

The story went big, with scare headlines, whereat Tilden plumed himself on putting one over on the reporters. The incident was recalled the other day when a party, including Walter Hansen—the Butte, Montana, packer—was lunching at the Chicago Stock Yard Inn. Jack Hill, the noted manager of that famous caravansary, placed a dish of bacon before the bunch, with the admonition: "Boys, that's Irish bacon—genuine! Cost 80 cents a pound." Hansen tasted a slice. "It's good, but we are making better in Montana," he asserted.

I recalled Ed Tilden's hay-fed hog, but Hansen was not to be squelched that way. "Our Montana barley-fed hog makes the best bacon in the world," he asserted. "Maybe he mixes some hay in his ration. If so, the combination is superb pork-making material."

By way of making good, Hansen sent a couple of slabs of bacon, accompanied by a ham. The gang again lunched at the Inn, comparing Montana barley-fed bacon with the Irish product. Montana got the verdict of the assembled gastronomists.

Tilden's hay-fed hog joke may be realized in the sense that the intermountain country will produce a porcine race convertible into superior meat. Tests show that barley-fed bacon holds its bulk in the cooking process and has a flavor not possessed by the corn-fed article. Barley and alfalfa make an excellent pork-production combination. Oscar Mayer, president of the national packers' organization, recently asserted that American corn-fed bacon was handicapped in the European market in competition with superior Irish and Danish product. The intermountain region could add enormously to its gross agrarian income by producing such meats as Hansen, of Butte, is now turning out.

THE DENVER MARKET

BY W. N. FULTON

DENVER, COLO., June 4, 1928.

FAIRLY LIBERAL SHIPMENTS of southern stocker cattle were received at Denver en route to northern pastures during May, although the big end of the supply came from feed-lots in this territory. Average quality of the fed stock received was exceptionally good, because of the very satisfactory feeding season experienced here. The demand for all

classes of stock was good, and the market cleared readily from day to day. Good-quality heavy steers were selling all the way from \$12 to \$13.50 a month ago, with choice heavy steers landing at a top of \$14.40; at the close of the month, prices ranged from \$12.50 to \$13.50 for the majority of the good, well-finished beeves. Cows were selling early in May at \$9 to \$9.75 for the bulk of the good killers, while choice, well-finished light cows sold up to \$10.25; at the close of the month, desirable killers were bringing \$10.50 to \$11, and choice, light, heiferish cows sold up to \$11.25. Heifers that sold from \$12 to \$13 a month ago were bringing \$12.50 to \$13.50 at the close of the month, with an extreme top on June 4 of \$13.75—the highest price of the season and the highest paid here since the war period. Stockers and feeders were selling early in May at \$10 to \$11.50, and the same grades were bringing \$10.50 to \$12.50 at the close of the month.

Fairly liberal supplies of fed cattle are reported back in feed-lots in Denver territory at this time. Feeders have faith in the summer market, and many of them are holding their stock for disposal later in the month of June and in July. In this respect the situation in the Denver territory has changed materially in the last few years. A few years ago the practice among cattle-feeders was quite general to market the bulk of the stock from feed-lots before the first of June. Now, however, the feeders hold many of their cattle for later marketing, thus furnishing a supply of good fed stock here throughout the summer months.

Hogs.—Hog trade was fairly satisfactory during the month, although the market suffered a slight setback. Whereas good-quality well-finished hogs were selling up to \$10.35 at the beginning of the month, the best price at the close was \$9.40, the expected advance in May failing to materialize. Many in the trade look for advancing prices in June, and the opinion is quite general that the market in July will be higher. Liberal supplies are responsible for the failure of the market to advance as the trade had anticipated.

Sheep.—Sheep trade was extremely active during the month. The supply here was liberal, and under strong competition practically everything offered from day to day was taken readily. Good-quality lambs were selling a month ago around \$17.25 to \$17.35; at the close of May choice quality Idaho spring lambs were bringing \$18, and a few days before

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had sold up to \$18.35. Woolled ewes were selling at \$9 to \$9.75 at the beginning of May, while Idaho clipped ewes were bringing \$6.75 to \$7 at the close.

Almost all the sheep and lambs coming to market at the present time are coming from California, Idaho, and Utah. At the close of the month, Idaho spring lambs were in the majority among the shipments to this market. The supply of lambs in Idaho is reported quite liberal, and the growers in that section are shipping many of their consignments to the Denver market. The supply is expected to continue here for some weeks.

Horses.—A good horse trade was reported on the local yards during the month of May. Buyers were quite plentiful at the regular weekly auction sales, and shipments went out regularly to all points in the East and South. Good-quality heavy-weight horses are selling around \$125 to \$175 a head, and good work-mules at about the same price. Farm chunks are bringing from \$60 to \$100 a head, while light horses are selling anywhere from \$50 down.

THE CALIFORNIA MARKET

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., May 30, 1928.

CONTINUED STEADY DEMAND for California beef cattle to be shipped out of the state to northern and eastern buyers has steadied coast market prices, according to the Western Cattle Marketing Association. Large shipments of steers and cows have rolled east and north; steers bringing \$10.50, cows \$8 to \$8.50, and heifers \$9 to \$9.50, all f. o. b. shipping points.

Coast markets are steady at prices equal to those paid for out-of-state shipments, and, while there is a tendency on the part of some buyers to buy under the market, growers are experiencing no difficulty in moving their cattle at prices quoted for good quality and finish.

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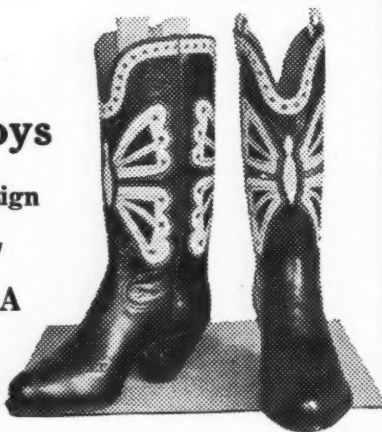
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LIVE STOCK AT STOCK-YARDS

APPENDED ARE TABLES showing receipts, shipments, and slaughter of live stock at sixty-seven markets for the month of April, 1928, compared with April, 1927, and for the four months ending April, 1928 and 1927:

RECEIPTS

	April		Four Months Ending April	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Cattle*.....	1,118,797	1,107,072	4,402,106	4,686,102
Calves.....	565,509	566,535	2,034,246	2,117,418
Hogs.....	3,482,504	3,142,358	18,694,283	14,456,457
Sheep.....	1,591,496	1,486,313	6,485,963	6,285,052

TOTAL SHIPMENTS*

	April		Four Months Ending April	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Cattle*.....	488,643	448,764	1,801,262	1,808,787
Calves.....	151,096	153,309	572,999	595,100
Hogs.....	1,385,498	1,101,150	6,804,735	5,311,202
Sheep.....	777,690	690,057	2,916,928	2,897,128

STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS

	April		Four Months Ending April	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Cattle*.....	236,463	184,164	780,036	715,736
Calves.....	17,889	19,864	74,895	68,588
Hogs.....	65,430	84,414	295,843	378,971
Sheep.....	133,471	118,246	446,382	602,185

LOCAL SLAUGHTER

	April		Four Months Ending April	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Cattle*.....	602,597	651,794	2,516,452	2,807,090
Calves.....	410,094	414,705	1,477,452	1,541,708
Hogs.....	2,077,837	2,049,602	11,869,004	9,135,503
Sheep.....	814,219	800,329	3,567,921	3,393,042

*Exclusive of calves.

†Including stockers and feeders.

COMPARATIVE LIVE-STOCK PRICES

BELOW ARE FIGURES showing prices on the principal classes and grades of live stock at Chicago on June 1, 1928, compared with April 30, 1928, and May 31, 1927:

	June 1, 1928	April 30, 1928	May 31, 1927
SLAUGHTER STEERS:			
Choice (1,100 to 1,500 lbs.).....	\$14.25-14.75	\$14.10-14.90	\$12.15-13.75
Good.....	13.25-14.25	13.25-14.10	10.85-12.75
Choice (1,100 lbs. down).....	14.25-14.75	14.10-14.75	11.25-12.50
Good.....	13.25-14.25	13.15-14.10	9.75-12.00
Medium (800 lbs. up).....	11.75-13.25	11.35-13.25	9.00-11.40
YEARLING STEERS:			
Good to Choice.....	13.25-14.75	12.75-14.50	9.25-11.25
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice.....	10.75-14.25	10.50-14.00	9.00-10.75
COWS:			
Good to Choice.....	9.00-11.75	8.60-11.75	7.35- 9.50
FEEDER AND STOCKER STEERS:			
Good to Choice (800 lbs. up).....	11.75-13.00	11.50-12.75	8.75-10.00
Common to Medium.....	9.50-11.75	9.00-11.25	7.50- 8.75
Good to Choice (800 lbs. down).....	11.75-12.90	11.50-12.75	8.75- 9.85
Common to Medium.....	9.50-11.75	8.75-11.25	7.25- 8.75
HOGS:			
Medium Weights (200 to 250 lbs.)....	9.40-10.00	9.85-10.55	9.20- 9.80
LAMBS:			
Medium to Choice (shorn).....	13.25-17.10	14.00-17.15	15.75-17.10

LIVE-STOCK MARKET QUOTATIONS

Friday, June 1, 1928

CATTLE AND CALVES

STEERS:	KANSAS CITY	OMAHA	DENVER
Good to Choice (1,500 lbs. up).....	\$12.65-14.15	\$12.65-14.15	.....
Choice (1,300 to 1,500 lbs.).....	13.40-14.25	13.35-14.25	.....
Good	12.50-13.40	12.75-13.35	.....
Choice (1,100 to 1,300 lbs.).....	13.40-14.25	13.35-14.35	\$13.10-13.60
Good	12.50-13.50	12.75-13.35	12.00-13.10
Choice (950 to 1,100 lbs.).....	13.50-14.50	13.35-14.35	13.10-13.65
Good	12.50-13.50	12.65-13.35	11.90-13.10
Medium (800 lbs. up).....	11.00-12.50	11.00-12.65	10.75-11.90
Common	8.75-11.00	8.75-11.00	8.75-10.75
YEARLING STEERS:			
Choice (750 to 950 lbs.).....	13.25-14.25	13.25-14.25	12.75-13.60
Good	12.25-13.50	12.25-13.25	11.75-12.75
HEIFERS:			
Choice (850 lbs. down).....	12.75-13.75	12.50-13.75	12.65-13.65
Good	11.65-13.00	11.50-12.50	11.65-12.65
Common to Medium.....	8.25-11.75	8.50-11.50	8.25-11.75
Choice (850 lbs. up).....	11.75-13.25	11.50-12.75	12.25-13.35
Good	10.75-12.50	10.75-12.00	11.35-12.50
Medium	8.75-11.50	8.75-11.25	9.25-11.75
COWS:			
Choice	10.00-11.00	11.00-11.75	11.00-11.85
Good	9.00-10.00	9.00-11.00	9.90-11.00
Common to Medium.....	7.50- 9.00	7.75- 9.00	7.75- 9.90
Low Cutters and Cutters.....	5.25- 7.50	6.00- 7.75	5.35- 7.75
BULLS:			
Good to Choice.....	8.50- 9.50	9.00- 9.75	8.60- 9.40
Cutters to Medium.....	7.65- 8.50	7.00- 9.00	6.75- 8.60
CALVES:			
Medium to Choice (500 lbs. down)....	8.00-12.00	10.00-12.50	10.25-13.50
Culls to Common.....	6.00- 8.00	6.50-10.00	7.00-10.25
VEALERS:			
Good to Choice.....	10.00-13.50	12.50-15.00	15.00-17.00
Medium	8.00-10.00	9.50-12.50	12.75-15.00
Culls to Common.....	6.00- 8.00	7.00- 9.50	8.00-12.75
FEEDERS AND STOCKERS—			
STEERS:			
Good to Choice (800 lbs. up).....	11.00-12.75	11.25-12.75	11.00-13.00
Common to Medium.....	8.75-11.00	8.75-11.25	8.50-11.00
Good to Choice (800 lbs. down).....	11.00-13.00	11.25-13.25	11.25-13.25
Common to Medium.....	8.75-11.00	8.50-11.25	8.50-11.25
HEIFERS:			
Good to Choice.....	9.25-11.50	9.00-11.50	9.00-10.00
Common to Medium.....	8.00- 9.25	7.25- 9.00	7.50- 9.00
COWS:			
Good to Choice.....	7.75- 9.00	7.00- 8.25	7.50- 8.40
Common to Medium.....	6.25- 7.25	6.25- 7.00	6.50- 7.50
CALVES:			
Good to Choice.....	11.25-13.50	10.50-12.50	11.00-13.00
Medium	8.75-11.25	8.00-10.50	9.00-11.00

HOGS

Heavy Weights, Medium to Choice.....	\$ 9.00- 9.60	\$ 8.90- 9.40	\$ 8.35- 9.15
Medium Weights, Medium to Choice....	9.25- 9.60	9.10- 9.50	8.90- 9.25
Light Weights, Medium to Choice.....	8.75- 9.60	8.25- 9.50	8.50- 9.25
Light Lights, Medium to Choice.....	7.25- 9.10	7.25- 9.00	7.25- 8.90
Packing Sows	7.50- 8.75	8.00- 8.65	7.25- 7.75
Slaughter Pigs, Medium to Choice.....	6.75- 8.10	.....	.....
Feeder and Stocker Pigs, Med. to Ch....	6.75- 8.10	6.25- 7.25	.....

SHEEP AND LAMBS

LAMBS:			
Good to Choice (84 lbs. down).....	\$14.75-16.00	\$15.25-16.25	\$15.15-15.75
Medium (92 lbs. down).....	13.75-14.75	14.00-15.25	14.15-15.15
Medium to Choice (92 to 100 lbs.)..	.....	14.00-16.00	13.50-15.60
Culls to Common (all weights).....	11.50-13.75	11.75-14.00	12.00-14.15
YEARLING WETHERS:			
Medium to Choice (110 lbs. down)...	11.50-14.25	11.25-14.25	.....
EWES:			
Medium to Choice (120 lbs. down)...	6.25- 8.25	6.00- 7.50	.....
Medium to Choice (120 to 150 lbs.)..	6.00- 8.00	5.75- 7.25	.....
Culls to Common (all weights).....	1.50- 6.25	1.25- 6.00	.....

If your subscription has expired, please renew and avoid interruption in delivery.

PACKERS REVIEW MEAT AND LIVE-STOCK SITUATION

FROM A REVIEW of meat and live-stock conditions during the month of May sent out by the Institute of American Meat Packers we quote the subjoined paragraphs:

PORK AND SWINE

"The export trade improved slightly, as compared with the previous month.

"In the domestic market, prices of fresh pork-loins declined appreciably during the first week of the month, but remained relatively steady thereafter. The demand was fair. Fresh shoulders and Boston butts showed a downward tendency in the first part of the month, but moved into consumption fairly well. The demand for hams improved, and the wholesale prices increased slightly. The demand for bacon was somewhat smaller than for the other smoked products, and prices showed little improvement. The trade in dry salt meats increased, as is usual at this time of the year. The lard trade improved somewhat over the previous month, and prices were slightly higher.

"Receipts of hogs at the leading markets were appreciably smaller than during the same month last year, but were about the same as during April of this year. Average hog prices were lower during the first two weeks than during the latter part of April, and declined still further in the latter half of the month.

CATTLE AND BEEF

"Cattle receipts were heavier than in the previous month, arrivals during the first week of the month being heaviest for any week so far this year. Prices of practically all grades of cattle declined as a result of the liberal receipts, but advanced later in the month when receipts became smaller. Near the close of the month, however, there was a decline in the prices of good and choice heavy cattle, and a slight decline in other grades. The supply of lighter-weight cattle was relatively small, the bulk of the receipts consisting of the heavier grades. The receipts of cows continued light.

"The demand for beef showed some improvement early in the month, and then fell off somewhat during the latter part. Dressed-beef prices were relatively steady, but declined during the last few days of the month.

"Hide prices weakened slightly during the month.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

"Receipts of sheep and lambs were about steady during the first week, increased liberally in the second and third

HEREFORDS ARE MARKET TOPPERS

At Chicago, which is probably the world's largest market for prime beeves, commercially fed Herefords obtained the top prices paid:

87% of the time by Months
80% of the time by Weeks
70% of the time by Regular Market Days
For a period of eight consecutive years

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HIGHEST RETURNS

American Hereford Cattle Breeders'
Association

300 West Eleventh Street

Kansas City, Mo.

weeks, and then shortened up materially at the close. The supply of Colorado lambs decreased from week to week, the biggest proportion of the receipts being made up of California spring lambs. As a result of the liberal supply in the early part of the month, live prices showed some decline, but strengthened up during the third week, despite the increase in receipts, mainly because of broad outside demand. The supply was very moderate at the close, and the market showed a stronger tendency.

"The dressed-lamb market was only fair throughout the month, with a stronger tendency toward the close.

"Wool sales have been fair, the market continuing on a strong basis."

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY of storage holdings of frozen and cured meats on May 1, 1928, as compared with May 1, 1927, and average holdings on that date for the last five years (in pounds):

Commodity	May 1, 1928	May 1, 1927	Five-Year Average
Frozen beef.....	28,208,000	39,712,000	49,364,000
*Cured beef.....	17,926,000	23,216,000	25,854,000
Lamb and mutton	1,974,000	1,862,000	2,824,000
Frozen pork.....	306,098,000	204,608,000	191,883,000
*Dry salt pork...	173,740,000	129,637,000	167,024,000
*Pickled pork.....	479,485,000	435,967,000	448,414,000
Miscellaneous.....	70,526,000	58,521,000	67,591,000
Totals.....	1,077,957,000	893,523,000	952,954,000
Lard.....	173,063,000	99,611,000	107,409,000

*Cured or in process of cure.

SLIGHT RECESSION IN HIDES

J. E. P.

HIDE MARKETS WEAKENED toward the end of May, but the situation is fundamentally strong. Fred C. Rand, president of the International Shoe Company, is of the opinion that the market is on the healthiest basis in its history. Shoe production is heavy, and the entire output is being absorbed. After an appreciation of over 100 per cent from the low

period in 1926, when No. 1 heavy hides sold in Chicago at 11 cents, compared with 25 cents at the high time this year, reactions are logical. A year ago the price of this grade was 18 cents; two years ago, 14½ cents; in 1925, 17 cents; and in 1924, 11½ cents. In 1913 the price was 17½ cents.

If the domestic take-off continues as light as recently, and leather consumption is maintained, hides will be worth more money. The world's surplus stocks of both hides and leather have been whittled down to small volume, with every prospect of further reduction. Packers are constantly sold up, but make concessions occasionally.

Recent Chicago transactions place the market on butt-branded steers at 22 cents and on branded cows at 21½ cents. Heavy native steers could hardly be quoted at over 22 cents. Packers are becoming less disposed to state what quantities of hides they have on hand for sale or to report their trades. Based on the big packer market, June-slaughter all-weight native cows and steers are apparently top at 22 cents.

Heavy country hides are easy and nominal around 18 to 18½ cents, selected. Buff weights are naturally weaker, and priced around 20 to 20½ cents for good-quality 45- to 60-pound merchandise. All-weight country branded hides are nominal at about 17 to 17½ cents flat, less Chicago freight.

WHOLESALE PRICES ON WESTERN DRESSED MEATS

Thursday, May 31, 1928

FRESH BEEF AND VEAL

STEERS (heavy weights, 700 lbs. up):	CHICAGO	BOSTON	NEW YORK
Choice	\$20.00-21.00	\$20.50-21.00	\$20.00-21.00
Good	19.00-20.00	20.00-20.50	19.00-20.50
STEERS (light and medium weights, 700 lbs. down):			
Choice	21.00-22.00		20.00-21.00
Good	19.50-21.00	19.00-19.50	19.00-20.50
STEERS (all weights):			
Medium	18.00-20.00		17.00-19.50
Common	16.50-18.00		
COWS:			
Good	17.50-18.50	18.00-19.00	17.50-19.00
Medium	16.00-17.50	17.00-18.00	16.00-17.50
Common	15.00-16.00	16.50-17.00	15.00-16.00
VEALERS:			
Choice	25.00-26.00	24.00-26.00	24.00-26.00
Good	23.00-25.00	21.00-24.00	23.00-25.00
Medium	21.00-23.00	18.00-21.00	22.00-24.00
Common	19.00-21.00	16.00-18.00	20.00-22.00

FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON

SPRING LAMB:			
Good to Choice.....	\$32.00-36.00	\$35.00-37.00	\$34.00-37.00
Medium	30.00-32.00	33.00-35.00	33.00-35.00
Common	28.00-30.00		30.00-32.00
LAMB (30 to 42 lbs.):			
Choice	33.00-34.00	34.00-35.00	33.00-35.00
Good	32.00-33.00	33.00-34.00	32.00-34.00
LAMB (42 to 55 lbs.):			
Choice	32.00-33.00	33.00 34.00	32.00-34.00
Good	30.00-32.00	32.00-33.00	31.00-33.00
LAMB (all weights):			
Medium	29.00-31.00	30.00-32.00	28.00-31.00
MUTTON (Ewes):			
Good	17.00-19.00	17.00-19.00	15.00-18.00
Medium	15.00-17.00	15.00-17.00	13.00-15.00
Common	13.00-15.00	12.00-15.00	11.00-13.00

FRESH PORK CUTS

LOINS:			
8-10 lb. av.....	\$23.00-25.00	\$22.00-23.00	\$21.00-23.00
10-12 lb. av.....	22.00-24.00	22.00-23.00	20.00-22.00
12-15 lb. av.....	20.00-22.00	20.00-22.00	18.00-20.00
15-18 lb. av.....	18.00-20.00	18.00-20.00	17.00-19.00
18-22 lb. av.....	16.00-18.00	17.00-19.00	16.00-18.00

DEHORNING Made Quick and Clean with the WILL C. BARNES D'HORNER

CUPS out the horn buttons, so that stubs do not grow. Quick and convenient to use, and least painful to the calf.

Cutting blades are tempered tool steel. Light, but sturdy. More in use than all other types combined.

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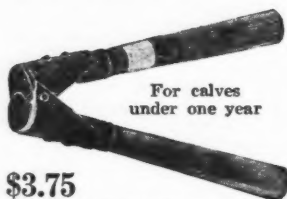


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WOOL STOCKS BOUGHT UP PROMPTLY

J. E. P.

WOOL IS SELLING as rapidly as it reaches eastern concentration points—much of it in original bags. Every grade has been in demand, from fine to low quarter, at firm prices. Mills are taking the new domestic clip, foreign markets are firm, and operations in the West are brisk. An encouraging phase of the situation is the healthy condition of the world's markets. While there has been no evidence of excitement, genuine confidence is evident, due to a conviction that the available supply will be no more than adequate to mill requirements.

While some resistance to the upward trend of prices has been in evidence, mill-owners are none too happy over the situation, which is exactly the reverse of 1926 in one respect, as goods-buyers are not now in position to pound prices. In the bright-wool states the market is developing rapidly, and already it is difficult to buy medium clips under 50 cents in Ohio and Michigan, 51 cents having been frequently paid. In Ohio and Pennsylvania buyers are making futile efforts to secure fine wools at 42 to 43 cents. For western half-blood wools at shearing stations near Chicago 45 cents has been the common price. In Ohio 50 cents, delivered, with the usual tag discount, is the rule.

Western prices have held firm. Interest centers in a series of June sales in Texas. Little has been done on the new clip in New Mexico.

Evidence is accumulating that wool supplies are short, and probably inadequate for the world's requirements, with Europe and Japan showing interest in raw material, and with the United States short. This condition is indicated by the fact that many consignments reaching Atlantic seaboard points from the West have been routed direct to the mills, without going into dealers' storage. No wool has accumulated anywhere, and so keen is current demand that even tags are being placed under contract. Sales of three-eighths and quarter-blood territory wools have been made in Boston at a strong dollar, clean, for quarters and \$1.05 for three-eighths.

Early June found dealers operating wherever a package of wool was to be found. Cloth-mills had not covered immediate requirements, having played the market short, thus putting themselves in a precarious position. The recent disparity between quarter- and half-blood has been reasonably adjusted.

At the last London sales Germany led the competition, France being in the bidding. Greasy mediums and cross-breds were popular. Merino wools are 20 per cent and cross-breds 30 to 40 per cent higher in the world's markets than last spring. Relief in raw material, so far as weavers are concerned, is considered impossible; consequently something must be put on clothing prices. Wool promises to be actually a scarce commodity, and the entire supply, actual and prospective, will be readily absorbed.

FEEDSTUFFS

THE PRICE of cottonseed cake and meal on June 4 was \$57.50, f. o. b. Texas points. The hay market at Kansas City on June 1 was as follows: Prairie—No. 1, \$10 to \$12; No. 2, \$8 to \$9.50; No. 3, \$5 to \$7.50; alfalfa—No. 1 extra leafy, \$27 to \$28; No. 2 extra leafy, \$25.50 to \$26.50; No. 1, \$24 to \$25; No. 2 leafy, \$22 to \$23.50; No. 2, \$20.50 to \$21.50; No. 3, \$15 to \$20; timothy—No. 1, \$13.50 to \$14.50; No. 2, \$12.50 to \$13; No. 3, \$10 to \$12.

TRADE REVIEW

APRIL'S FOREIGN COMMERCE

SIZABLE DECREASES in both exports and imports from those of the previous month, as well as of April a year ago, characterized our foreign trade in April, partly accounted for by a substantial reduction in exports of raw cotton and a heavy drop in imports of crude rubber. The figures follow:

	April		Ten Months Ending April	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Exports.....	\$368,000,000	\$415,374,000	\$4,070,087,000	\$4,217,994,000
Imports.....	345,000,000	375,733,000	3,475,974,000	3,550,631,000
Excess of exports.....	\$ 23,000,000	\$ 39,641,000	\$ 594,093,000	\$ 667,363,000

EXPORTS OF MEATS IN APRIL

EXPORTS OF MEAT PRODUCTS and animal fats from the United States for the month of April and the four months ending April, 1928, as compared with the corresponding periods of 1927, were as below (in pounds):

BEEF PRODUCTS

	April		Four Months Ending April	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Beef, fresh.....	116,391	134,514	702,215	720,147
Beef, pickled.....	647,471	1,593,862	2,522,799	5,897,926
Beef, canned.....	288,390	314,302	879,949	1,173,033
Oleo oil.....	5,849,420	8,271,286	20,884,047	31,656,739
Totals.....	6,901,672	10,313,964	24,989,010	39,447,845

PORK PRODUCTS

	April		Four Months Ending April	
	1928	1927	1928	1927
Pork, fresh.....	1,156,122	997,948	5,458,538	2,984,196
Pork, pickled.....	3,216,190	2,222,464	10,605,514	8,075,941
Bacon.....	10,082,693	7,417,281	47,750,496	35,641,110
Cumberland sides.....	675,192	362,130	1,981,526	1,568,631
Hams and shoulders.....	11,258,051	10,007,399	44,461,347	38,643,648
Wiltshire sides.....	58,329	56,751	284,891	170,838
Sausage, canned.....	151,781	324,753	791,400	1,494,522
Lard.....	56,553,792	67,345,009	287,014,578	230,110,473
Lard compounds.....	354,749	674,162	1,832,596	4,519,628
Neutral lard.....	2,070,877	2,646,399	10,270,838	7,705,781
Totals.....	85,577,776	92,054,296	410,451,724	330,914,768

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CALVIN H. MORSE, Manager

The Metropole is now an annex to the Cosmopolitan

FOREIGN

LIVE-STOCK INTERESTS IN AUSTRALASIA

BY A. C. MILLS

[Special Correspondence to The Producer]

MELBOURNE, April 16, 1928.

CATTLE-OWNERS IN QUEENSLAND—at all events those who are fortunate enough to have fats for sale—are reasonably pleased with the prices being paid by the frozen-beef export firms. Those operating in the south of the state are offering a flat rate of from \$6.96 to \$7.20 per cwt., dressed weights, for mobs promising to yield about 90 per cent of first-grade beef. That is the country buying rate, and includes cost of delivery to the door of the packing-houses in Brisbane. There has also been some buying in the Brisbane metropolitan sale-yards, up to \$7.68 per cwt. being given at times; but most of that beef is intended for the interstate markets.

The central Queensland companies are getting the bulk of their supplies on the basis of \$6.36 per cwt., delivered, and, as most of the mobs are near enough to walk into the works, trucking expenses and losses incidental to railway traveling are saved.

The killing season in the north opened last week, but it will not be general until the end of the month. The buying price up there is always a good deal lower than in the central and southern divisions, owing to some extent to the poorer grade of cattle raised in the tropics, and the indifferent hides they carry; and this year is no exception. At first the majority of packers announced that they were prepared to pay a flat rate of \$5.28 per cwt., delivered, for export beef, and \$1.20 for condemned. However, a new firm butted in and, taking a lease of one of the works, upset things by offering to buy on the basis of \$5.64 per cwt. for first, \$5.16 for seconds, \$1.92 for rejects, and \$1.20 for condemned. As a result, they are all up to or about \$5.64 now, and competing freely for the available supplies.

As I think I explained in a previous letter, the foregoing rates are fully \$1.20 per cwt. higher than obtained at the opening of the 1927 export season, and must be attributed mainly to the phenomenal rise in hide values. Though the overseas markets for frozen beef are a little higher than at this time last year, the appreciation does not anything like cover the increased cost of meat. For a time in March it looked as if hides were going to slump, but fortunately they are again firm, and it seems probable they will remain so for a time. Tallow is also selling better this season than last, and is helping packers to maintain their rates.

The relatively good prices being paid for finished cattle are keeping the market firm for all other grades. Good-type forward steers are in strong demand, in those districts of Queensland that have winter feed, at up to \$40 a head. In some instances even more is being paid. Unfortunately the drought in the central west and the far west of the state is still making it difficult to move cattle in from the large runs in the Territory, now known as North Australia. Apart from a small live shipping trade with Manila, in the Philippine Islands, about the only present practical outlet for owners there is through the Western Australian government's meat-freezing works located at Wyndham, on the northwest coast of the continent.

The Wyndham plant commences its 1928 killing season this or next week. Though a government-owned concern, it is operated on the co-operative principle, the management purchasing cattle from northern graziers on the basis of from \$3.60 to \$4.32 per cwt. for beef from cattle slaughtered between May 1 and July 31, and 24 cents per cwt. higher on stock treated in April, August, or September. Reject beef is \$1.56 per cwt., and condemned beef \$1.20.

Although not so high as a couple of months ago, the cattle markets in the southern states are firm for the time of the year. Last week prime bullocks were selling at from \$87.50 to \$95 a head, and good medium weights at from \$70 to \$85, in the Melbourne sale-yards, and for nearly as much at Sydney. These prices mean that beef is costing Melbourne wholesale butchers from \$10.80 to \$12.48 per cwt., and up to \$12 in Sydney. As these rates are appreciably above those ruling in Queensland, a fair amount of dead meat is being sent south by train and boat, in either chilled or frozen condition.

The brighter prospects in the beef markets are reflected in the sales of stud cattle held early this month in connection with the Sydney Royal Show. Although no very high prices were recorded, the general average was a good deal better than that of 1927. The top—\$3,402—was paid for a young Hereford bull, and the second highest—\$3,125—for a fourteen-month-old Aberdeen-Angus bull. A fifteen-month-old Short-horn bull fetched \$2,646, and quite a fair number of stud beef animals realized over \$1,000.

The areas of New Zealand that were previously suffering from a dry spell have had adequate relief rains during the past six weeks, and feed for winter now seems assured. Recently published final pastoral statistics indicate that, with the exception of sheep and pigs, the live stock of the Dominion shows a decrease on the previous year. The number of horses was down to 303,713—a decrease of 11,154—and the number of cattle returned was 3,257,729, as against 3,452,486—a falling-off of 194,757. Pigs, on the other hand, increased from 472,534 to 520,143. The increase is due to the movement toward the establishment of an export trade in frozen pork.

The reduction in the number of cattle is accounted for by the heavy slaughtering of calves on dairy farms, to reduction of herds of beef cattle owing to the low prices ruling for some years for frozen beef, and to the fact that agricultural farmers have cut down their dairy herds. The number of cows kept on purely dairy farms has not appreciably decreased, and this year's returns will probably show a considerable increase. The reduction in the number of beef cattle, in connection with the fact that dairy farmers do not nowadays rear steer calves, and that the export of frozen beef is showing a good recovery, is likely to make beef for local consumption scarcer and dearer in the near future. Good weaner steers, for which there has been a poor market for several years, are now commanding prices which have made them profitable to rear.

FRANCE AS A MARKET FOR AMERICAN FARM PRODUCTS

THERE IS A GROWING MARKET in France for cereals and animal products, according to Louis G. Michael, economist of the Department of Agriculture, who has been making a series of agricultural surveys of foreign countries. This should result in an increased demand for American wheat and, to a less extent, lard and pork products.

Hundreds of thousands of French farms have been re-

equipped since the Armistice, and there is now a higher standard of living than has ever before been enjoyed among the masses of the people. Before the World War, agriculture was steadily losing its position of predominance in the national economic life of France. Field-crop production had been on the decline more than two decades, and land had been slowly going to grass. Live-stock numbers had not expanded proportionately to the greater available forage and fodder supplies, but the live weights and quality of animals and the yield of milk had increased. The sale of live stock and animal products formed more than 70 per cent of the farmer's income. France was practically independent of outside sources of meat supply and had become an exporter of dairy products.

This situation, Mr. Michael says, was reached as the result of a series of adjustments to changes that had occurred in world agriculture. The world market had been flooded with American wheat, and French farmers took up animal industry. Then the world market became flooded with American cotton and Australian wool, and the French farmer abandoned flax, hemp, and wool production and turned his attention to meat. Now the world market is being flooded with frozen meat, and the farmers are turning more and more to dairying.

The per-capita consumption of meat, butter, milk, and wheat in France is growing. France cannot meet the demand for increased supplies of animal products without abandoning still further the area under bread cereals, which, under the wasteful system of scattered land-holdings, cannot be produced economically in competition with the broad acres and power farming of the New World.

Mr. Michael's survey of the agriculture of France has been published by the Department of Agriculture as Technical Bulletin No. 37-T, "Agricultural Survey of Europe: France," copies of which may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

GERMAN MEAT CONSUMPTION

THE TOTAL AMOUNT of domestic meat available for consumption in Germany in 1927 (inspected slaughter, excluding horse) was 2,531,223,500 pounds, comparing with 2,400,545,900 pounds in 1913, according to a recent report to the Department of Commerce. In addition to domestic slaughterings under inspection, the import surplus of meat and meat products during 1927 and 1913 was as follows: 1927, 189,088,200 pounds; 1913, 54,255,200 pounds. The import surplus of meat and meat products last year was thus about three and a half times more than in 1913.

The per-capita consumption of meat in Germany in post-war years, compared with the last pre-war years, which do not take uninspected slaughterings into consideration, increased during 1927 by roughly 3 per cent when compared with the average per-capita consumption for the years 1911 to 1913, as shown by the following figures: 1927, 100 pounds; 1924-26, 83.1; 1911-13, 96.8. Of the total consumption, the percentage of meat from domestic production and imports was as follows: 1927—domestic 85.1 per cent, foreign 14.9 per cent; 1911-13—domestic 91.2 per cent, foreign 8.8 per cent. Judging by these figures, Germany still relies on imported meats and live stock to a greater extent than was the case prior to the war, but in 1927 it considerably improved domestic production over the average for the years 1924 to 1926. Germany, as is well known, is mainly a pork-eating country, and of the total meat consumed during the periods under review it is calculated that the slaughter of hogs accounted for the following percentages: 1927, 60.27 per cent; 1924-26, 52.21; 1911-13, 56.92.

The market for American lard in Germany has been under the handicap of large German hog slaughter and low prices, as well as the competition of margarine, which is being extensively advertised. However, due to low hog prices, which have prevailed for some time, German hog-producers are liquidating, and a relative shortage in the hog supply is anticipated.

While production in other European countries is coming to be a larger factor in the German market, Germany must continue to look to this country for the bulk of its imported lard. It would appear that we may continue to expect a fair demand from that source, particularly at times when low prices in this country coincide with short production there.

NOTES FROM FOREIGN LANDS

Germany Limits Imports of Meats

As a concession to the Agrarian party, the government of Germany has agreed to limit the amount of frozen meat permitted to be imported to 50,000 tons a year, with the proviso that in case of shortage further permits will be issued.

Filipinos to Supply Their Own Beef

Cattle-raisers of the Philippine Islands have organized under a new co-operative marketing law, with the aim of supplying their entire home market with beef and cutting off importations of live cattle from Australia, which now furnishes 50 per cent of the fresh beef consumed in Manila.

Improvement of East African Native Cattle

Legislation is proposed for the improvement and utilization of native cattle in the Tanganyika Territory (formerly German East Africa). The first step will be the establishment of a factory for the preservation of meat both for local consumption and for export. There are estimated to be about 5,000,000 head of cattle in the territory.

German Live-Stock Slaughter in 1927

Total number of hogs slaughtered under inspection in Germany in 1927 was 17,215,000—an increase of 32 per cent over 1926 and 5 per cent over 1913. This heavy increase was largely due to the higher cost of feed grains. Of cattle and calves, 7,256,000 were killed, which was slightly under 1926, but 5 per cent above 1913. Sheep and goat slaughter was less than in previous years.

"BREEDER'S GAZETTE" ON COUNTRY BUYING

ANOTHER OF THE IMPORTANT live-stock papers has declared itself on the subject of direct marketing of hogs. The *Breeder's Gazette* of Chicago, being challenged by one of its readers, states its opinion in these terms:

"We do not believe that direct buying is detrimental to the producer, so long as less than 50 per cent of the hogs are sold direct. Direct buying is a local problem. The wise producer will grasp it as a new weapon for himself. He will play both ends against the middle. He will sell to the direct buyer when he can get a nickel more from him than he can net at the central market.

"We reach this conclusion after talking to farmers on a central market and after talking to farmers at a concentration point. Direct buying does not destroy competition; direct buying enables the farmer to hold on to his own hogs for the longest possible time; direct buying is not very important in barnyard economics; direct buying is a mere incident to the evolution of the meat-packing business.

"Direct buying becomes a service and not a menace to the producer when he is organized to handle it effectively for the greatest benefit to himself and his fellows."

ROUND THE RANGE

RANGE AND LIVE STOCK IN MAY

Ranges.—April was marked by cool weather and slow development of ranges over much of the western country, and dry conditions in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, southern California, eastern Colorado, and the western parts of Kansas and Nebraska, says the government report for May. Spring was tardy west of the Continental Divide, and range feed in Idaho, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon was very late, with need of moisture in Nevada and southern Idaho. Moisture conditions were very good in the western part of the Dakotas, Montana, west-

ern Colorado, Washington, and the higher mountain ranges. Warmer weather was needed to bring out the spring feed. Rains early in May helped to relieve the dry situation in Texas, New Mexico, eastern Colorado, and western Kansas and Nebraska. Late range feed caused late feeding in many places and generally a short carry-over of hay. Condition of ranges was 85 per cent of normal, compared with 91 per cent in April and 89 per cent a year ago.

Cattle.—Late feed and dry conditions in places caused a slight decline in the condition of cattle over most of the western country. Losses had been light, and the calf crop promised to be good, but growth had been held back in dry regions of the Southwest. The spring movement from Texas had become active, and there was some fall contracting in sections where feed was good, but little restocking. Calves for fall

delivery had been contracted in western Nebraska and South Dakota at \$40 to \$47 per head. Restocking had been limited in the West, with some cattle changing hands to be run during the summer for fall marketing, rather than going to stock ranches. Condition of cattle and calves was 88 per cent of normal, compared with 89 per cent the previous month and 88 per cent a year ago.

Sheep.—Sheep were generally in very good condition, but lack of green feed and dry conditions in places had resulted in a slight shrink in flesh. Range feed had been short in Texas, parts of New Mexico, Arizona, and southern California, which tended to a lower condition and checked the gain of lambs. Shed-lambing had given a very good crop, but short feed had not been favorable for development. Late lambing began about May 1 or later in much of the northern country, but cool weather and occasional storms late in April had resulted in some losses in Montana, New Mexico, and a few other places. Ewes were generally in good shape. A large part of the western wool clip had been contracted, except in Texas. Lamb-contracting continued, with prices generally at 10½ to 11½ cents, a few growers asking higher prices. Condition of sheep and lambs was 91 per cent of normal, compared with 93 per cent in April and the same last year.

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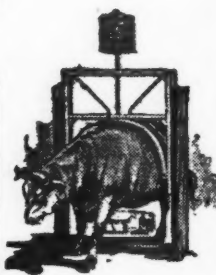
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FEEDING CATTLE FOR BEEF

In Farmers' Bulletin 1549-F, "Feeding Cattle for Beef," W. H. Black, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, offers a condensed analysis of practices in feeding cattle which have been tested in feed-lot and pasture. The bulletin is intended primarily as an aid to farmers who have not had wide experience in finishing cattle for the market, but it is believed that it will be no less valuable to experienced feeders in checking their established methods.

Since the net returns from cattle-feeding constitute the real basis for measuring success in the fattening of cattle, the author points out the desirability of knowing the market trends by seasons and for a term of years. This knowledge, plus an examination of the kinds and quantities of feeds and roughages on the farm, will in large measure determine when to buy feeders and what sort to buy.

The bulletin includes average rations for various weights of cattle, simple methods of calculating the cost of protein in feeds, suggestions for balancing rations and for starting cattle on feed,

management systems for calves, supplementary feeds for grazing cattle, mineral mixtures, equipment for feeding, and other practical suggestions. It may be procured free by applying to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

MEAT AS AN EXCLUSIVE DIET

To test the possibility of subsisting on nothing but meat and water, Dr. Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the arctic explorer, and his colleague, Karsten Andersen, recently underwent experiments, lasting twenty-three and fifty-nine days respectively, at the Bellevue Hospital in New York City, under the direction of the Russell Sage Institute of Pathology. Both men had lived for long periods on meat in the Arctics, but wished to try out their ability to do so under scientific control and what approached to normal living conditions.

The diet consisted of steak, roast beef, beef tongue, calf's liver, brain, and marrow. Beef-broth was also allowed, but else no other liquid than pure water. Regular exercise was taken. The *New York Times* quotes Dr. Stefansson as saying:

"When I began on the meat diet, I felt lackadaisical on getting up in the morning. Now I feel like jumping out of bed and getting right to work. I am more optimistic, ambitious, and energetic. I am inclined to ascribe this to my diet. The Eskimos, who subsist solely on meat, are a cheerful race, optimistic under the most adverse conditions.

"I am convinced that the meat diet is an excellent one, but I would not recommend it for everyone.

"The skeptical vegetarians told me that I could not live on the meat diet in New York's temperate climate without harmful results. I wanted to show them that they were wrong. A man suffers more from cold in New York than he does in the Arctic.

"The meat-eating Eskimos die of old age or injuries. I have found few cases of organic ailments among them. Neither are they obese or skinny, but are all of good proportions."

The institute announced that Andersen, who has been subsisting on the meat diet for fifty-nine days, showed no harmful effects. He has gained five pounds since the test was begun, while Stefansson has lost five pounds. Both men are writing books on their arctic experiences.

A committee of twelve physicians, headed by Professor Raymond Pearl, of Johns Hopkins University, found no evidence in Stefansson of high blood-pressure, hardening of the arteries, kidney trouble, or other ailments which, according to certain doctors, arise from the meat diet.

THE MUSTANG

Herds of wild horses have recently been rounded up and slaughtered in Oregon and Washington, in order that their hides might be preserved and their meat sold to fox-farmers. This, says a bulle-

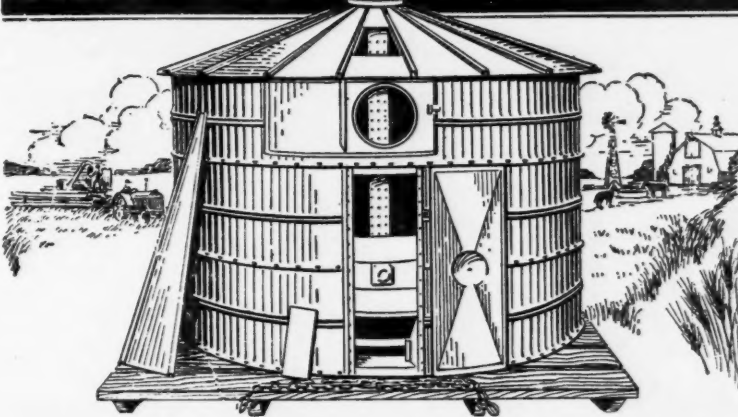
tin from the National Geographic Society, "is an ignominious end to horses whose lineage could be traced to the first horse families of America. And, incidentally, it brings to mind one of the

Hardy Alfalfa Seed

\$6.80 per bushel; Sweet Clover, \$4. Both test 95 per cent pure. Return seed if not satisfactory. GEORGE BOWMAN, Concordia, Kansas.

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most remarkable revolutions in folk customs that the world has known in the last five hundred years.

"Practically all of the wild horses of the West came from the few animals which escaped from the army of Cortez in Mexico, between 1520 and 1530, or from the still fewer horses that De Soto's adventurers left on the west of the Mississippi in 1542. Although horses had lived in North America in prehistoric times, as shown by fossil bones, none had existed on the continent for many thousands of years when Europeans first landed.

"The Indian lived without the help of domestic animals save the dog. When he moved, he went on foot. As a result, both the hunting and agricultural Indians lived in semi-permanent villages; and the hunters did not range over a large territory.

"But when the escaped Spanish horses had multiplied and began to appear in herds on the western prairies, the Indians caught them, tamed them, and began hunting the buffalo from horseback. Soon they adopted a roving life, follow-

ing the herds on horseback until their winter's supply of meat was obtained and cured. This movement over a greater territory brought the tribes into regions previously recognized as the abode of other tribes, and war followed. The western tribes soon were in a continual state of warfare, for which the horse was largely responsible.

"So rapidly did the herds of horses increase ('mustangs' they came to be called) that they were in a fair way to equal the buffalo in numbers. The advancing of civilization, and the fencing of the prairies, put an end to their increase, however, and in late decades they have run wild in relatively few regions in the least-settled parts of such states as Nebraska, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

"The American 'wild horse' is not so classified by biologists. Officially he is a 'feral' horse—a strain run wild from previously domesticated stock. The true wild horse exists now only in Asia, chiefly in the Gobi Desert and the Altai mountain regions. During the early Christian era wild horses overran the steppes of Russia and the Carpathian country of Europe, and smaller herds were known in the German forests, in Switzerland, and in Alsace. These creatures were hunted along with stags, and their meat was eaten. In 732 A. D. Pope Gregory III issued an interdict against the eating of the flesh of wild horses."

AMERICANS ATTRACTED TO CANADA

Total immigration into Canada during the twelve months ended March 31, 1928, numbered 151,597—an increase of 5 per cent over the preceding year. Of this number, 25,007 came from the United States. This represents a large increase over previous years, and is due to the attraction of low-priced or free government land for farming purposes. Michigan contributed the greatest proportion of these immigrants.

OUR TEN LEADING BANKS

The ten largest banks in the United States, with the amount of their deposits, were as follows at the end of 1927, according to the *American Banker*:

National City Bank, New York	\$1,275,041,000
Chase National Bank, New York	792,339,000
Guaranty Trust Co., New York	720,029,000
Bank of Italy, San Francisco	645,002,000
American Exchange, New York	622,176,000
Bankers' Trust Co., New York	562,069,000
Continental Bank and Trust Co., Chicago	541,322,000
National Bank of Commerce, New York	537,262,000
Equitable Trust Co., N. Y.	478,852,000
Illinois Merchants' Trust Co., Chicago	383,334,000

Pizness Is Pizness.—Mr. Cohen—"Jakey, I take you to my place and teach you de pizness."

Jakey—"Ull right!"

At the office: Mr. Cohen—"Jakey, climb up dere and took down dot file. T'row it down, att a boy! Now jump down—I ketch you."

Jakey—"Ull right, fodder!"

(Jakey jumps; father walks away; Jakey falls and hurts himself.)

Mr. Cohen—"See dot? Dot's de first lesson—you ken't efen trust your own fodder in pizness."—*Exchange.*

End of a Perfect Day.—"Och, aye, but I've found a lovely dentist! He gives his patients a drink after every tooth he extracts, to revive them."

"Then what are you so gloomy about? Did he run out of whisky when you went?"

"No; I ran out of teeth."—*Passing Show (London).*

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More About Selling and Volume Control

VOLUME CONTROL in co-operative live-stock selling necessarily means the elimination of competition between sellers. Competition between salesmen always results in a lower price. When live stock is sold on the hoof, this is particularly true, because beef, veal, pork, and mutton cannot be sold by sample, like such commodities as grain, cotton, cheese, and others, and consequently a high type of skill is required in an efficient live-stock salesman.

Through organization, producers of live stock have it in their power quickly and effectively to reduce the number of salesmen, and thereby to eliminate one of the important elements which make for lower prices. Co-operative organization leaders recognize that large numbers of salesmen

on terminal markets can never affect prices favorably for live-stock producers.

In every market the sales force necessarily includes men who are uninformed and entirely disinterested in the producer of the live stock, except in so far as commissions can be collected for live stock handled. From the standpoint of the live-stock producer, these weak salesmen are highly undesirable, because, in their anxiety to sell, oftentimes they start the market considerably lower than supply and demand conditions warrant. These lower markets mean losses to sellers on all such markets and in all parts of the country. Increased volume control through co-operative agencies directly representing live-stock producers means more uniform prices, and the elimination of speculators and of numerous inefficient salesmen.

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Cattle Raisers & Producers Commission Ass'n, Fort Worth, Texas	The Michigan Live Stock Exchange, Detroit, Michigan
Producers Co-operative Commission Ass'n, Cincinnati, Ohio	Producers Commission Ass'n, Sioux City, Iowa
Producers Co-operative Commission Ass'n, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Producers Commission Ass'n, Kansas City, Missouri
Evansville Producers Commission Ass'n, Evansville, Indiana	Peoria Producers Commission Ass'n, Peoria, Illinois
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